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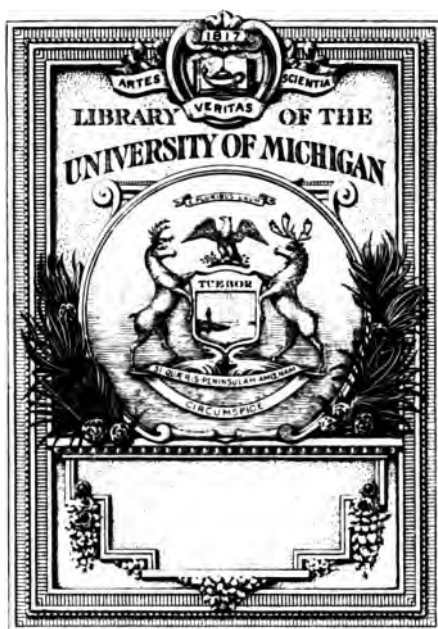
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*REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIA-
TION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM—
HELD IN PARIS IN THE ÉCOLE DES
BEAUX ARTS, FROM THE 12th TO THE
17th OF SEPTEMBER, 1892.*



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REPORT
OF THE
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
Library Association of the United Kingdom,
HELD IN PARIS

FROM THE 12th TO THE 17th OF SEPTEMBER, 1892.

THE Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association was opened on Monday morning, September 12, 1892, in the Salle de l'Hémicycle of the École des Beaux-Arts, in Paris, under peculiarly favourable auspices. Thanks to the kind intervention of Lord Salisbury, and of the British Ambassador in Paris, the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, and to the ready acquiescence of the French Government and the Municipality of Paris, the arrangements for the meetings were of a very complete character. An excellent building for the purpose—the École des Beaux-Arts—was placed at the service of the Association, and the State and Municipal Libraries and Museums of Paris were thrown open to the members for the study and inspection of the methods and systems in use. The ready and generous help of the public bodies of the French capital was equalled by the hospitality of a private nature, such as the reception by the *Cercle de la Librairie*, by Monsieur and Madame Delisle at the Bibliothèque Nationale, and that by the Duc d'Aumale at Chantilly. There was only one matter for regret in the unavoidable absence of the President-Elect, Dr. Richard Garnett.

In Professor Beljame, who occupies the Chair of English

Language and Literature at the Sorbonne, was found a worthy substitute for Dr. Garnett, and the learned professor conducted the sessions of the Congress with an ease and grace which won the regard of every member of the Association. An accomplished man of letters, a fluent speaker both in his native tongue and in English, and an authority on English literature, Professor Beljame proved to be an ideal chairman of the congress. Although Lord Dufferin's health prevented him from attending the opening of the meeting, where he was represented by Mr. Condie Stephen, one of the Secretaries of the Legation, at the later meetings he was able to appear and speak towards the close. On the occasion of the members' dinner he was represented by Mr. Rennell Rodd, whose own contributions to literature, and his charming speech, made him an exceptionally welcome guest.

Professor Beljame took the chair at half-past ten o'clock ; and on behalf of the Minister of Public Instruction—M. Bourgeois—and the Prefet of the Seine, presented an address of welcome to the Association.

Speaking in French, he said that their President, Dr. Garnett, was known, in France as well as in England, not only as an eminent bibliophile, but also as a distinguished writer, a critic, and a refined poet. They would doubtless lose by the substitution of himself (Professor Beljame), but he was distinctly a gainer ; for it was his privilege to be enabled, on behalf of the Minister of Public Instruction and of French men of letters, to extend to them a hearty welcome, and to express the pleasure they felt at their visit. The Library Association had rendered great services in respect of the promotion and organisation of Public Libraries for some years past, and had held annual Congresses, where ideas and experience might be exchanged. Hitherto these Congresses had always taken place in their own country, and now for the first time they had gone abroad. Paris had been chosen as the place of meeting, a selection which he hoped would give satisfaction to all, and tempt them to repeat the experiment, by which Frenchmen would be highly gratified. The welcome they had received could leave no doubt as to the nature of the sentiments entertained by the French public. The Minister of Public Instruction was officially represented there by M. Delisle, and he had placed at their disposal this magnificent *salle*. Although he felt himself an inadequate substitute for Dr. Garnett, he promised them his best services as Presi-

dent. So far as Public Libraries were concerned, he had much more to do with them as a reader than as a librarian ; though there was a little corner at the Sorbonne, in the Undergraduates' Library, over which he presided. There was one subject to which he very much wished to direct attention, *viz.*, the designation of the *format* of books, which, in English, is called "size notation". He had always experienced the greatest difficulty in deciding what was the particular *format*, but the mistakes he so often made were attenuated by the fact that much more experienced librarians than he were under the same difficulties. He quoted the instance of certain copies of early English dramas, which are described as quarto in England and as octavo in France. He might quote other examples, but one would serve to prove the utility of discussing such questions at such international congresses as that which they had organised this year in Paris.

Changing from French to English, he added : "Speaking, not as your *pro tem.* President, but in my private capacity, it has been my good fortune to make English literature my special study. I say good fortune, because this preference has been and is to me a source of constant pleasure, such is the power and variety of your great writers from (and even before) Chaucer down to the present time ; and if any one were disposed to express doubts of the continued vitality of your great literature, I would only, without leaving Paris, refer them to the British Embassy in this city to reassure them entirely. My researches in the vast and fertile fields of English literature have more than once taken me over the Channel to visit your Public Libraries ; and I may say that I have always admired the organisation of your libraries, and the learning and affability of your librarians. To speak candidly, I think I must have tested their patience very much now and then, but they have never shown it in any way, and their assistance has always been vouchsafed generously and readily. I owe them a debt of real gratitude, "still owing, still to pay"; but I am not ashamed of my indebtedness, and I even propose adding to it at the earliest possible opportunity. I am, therefore, glad to have this opportunity of publicly expressing my sense of their kindness."

Mr. Condie Stephen, representing Lord Dufferin, said that His Excellency had instructed him to express his very great regret at being unable to be present at the sessions of the Congress, but he wished the Congress every success.

The following new members were then elected :

New Members.

Bermondsey Public Library.
Bailey, J. Rand, 27 Boulevard Dubouchaye, Nice.
Black, Fraser, 52 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
Brindle, James, Wigan Lane, Wigan.
Carter, George Richardson, Southport.
Cockson, Charles, Ince, Wigan.
Blumberg, Henry, M.D., Warley House, Southport.
De Coverly, R., 6 St. Martin's Court, Charing Cross Road.
Glanfield, Wm., 33 St. Martin's Lane, W.C.
Franks, Rev. Enoch, Wigan.
Gee, Mr. Councillor John, J.P., Park View, Wigan.
Gee, James, Park View, Wigan.
Hamilton, Mrs., Elm House, Hawick.
Hobbes, R., 374 Wandsworth Road, S.W.
Johnson, H. C., King Street, Wrexham.
Low, Miss Marie, The Nook, Fernhurst, Sussex.
Marshall, George, 51 Chandos Street, W.C.
Margison, Thomas, Holme House, Wigan.
Oliver, Mrs. J. M., Thornwood, Hawick.
Phillips, J., Mayor of Wigan.
Morrison, Miss, Stirling's and Glasgow Public Library, Glasgow.
Percy, C. M., Wigan.
Pratt, John, M.A., Public Library, Loughton, Staffs.
Rees, Dr. Robert, High Street, West Bromwich.
Potter, George, 66 Grove Road, Holloway, N.
Ramsden, C. L., 33 Parsons Green, W.
Simmons, Thomas, 59 Oxford Street, W.
Rigby, John, Upper Dicconson Street, Wigan.
Richardson, James, 89 Queen Street, Glasgow.
Smith, Arthur, Town Clerk, Wigan.
Stewart, J. R., The Poplars, Dicconson Street, Wigan.
Stone, Miss C. L., Cavendish House, Grosvenor Road, Handsworth,
Birmingham.
Smith, John Henry, 4 Park Road, Wigan.
Wood Green Public Library.
Withers, Samuel, The Leverets, Handsworth, Staffs.
Watson, Robert, Hillside Cottage, Hawick.

Wilson, Councillor Joseph, The Poplars, Wigan.
Tomlinson, W. E. M., M.P., Bank Chambers, Wigan.
Gilfillan, D., Hillside Cottage, Hawick.
Bagguley, W. H., Free Public Library, West Ham.
Stiles, R. E., 39 Great Russell Street, W.C.
Leighton, John, F.S.A., 12 Ormonde Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.

PAPERS.

The first paper read was

ON THE USE OF WOOD ENGRAVING IN OLD VENETIAN BOOKS,
by M. Thierry-Poux, Conservateur-Adjoint of the Bibliotheque Nationale, who described a number of the volumes in the national collection which illustrated the points he wished to enforce.

Dr. Garnett's paper, entitled

THE BRITISH MUSEUM CATALOGUE CONSIDERED AS THE BASIS
OF A UNIVERSAL CATALOGUE, *Library*, v. 5, p. 93,

was read by Mr. W. H. K. Wright, and dealt with the need which every Librarian and literary historian and student felt for such a literary register. By the year 1900, it is probable the publication of the British Museum Catalogue will be completed. It will embrace over a million entries, and no better basis will be available for a universal catalogue.

Mr. John Leighton, in the discussion which followed, said it would be an admirable thing to have a universal catalogue compiled on one system and printed on one formula.

Mr. Cowell, of Liverpool, said they were all aware of the importance of such a catalogue. The point was hardly one for the custodians of Free Public Libraries, for unfortunately they did not possess many books not already represented at the British Museum, although they might possess much local literature which did not reach the British Museum; but it appealed very strongly to College Librarians, who had in their charge many volumes of rare early literature. Such a catalogue would undoubtedly be of very great importance to keepers of such libraries.

Mr. Alderman Bailey, of Salford, said that there was not and could not well be any difference of opinion as to the importance of a universal catalogue such as that sketched by Dr. Garnett. The chief difficulty was the financial one; but he suggested that public librarians were men of considerable influence, and they might bring

pressure to bear on their respective members of Parliament, urging that the project was really one of national importance. They might thus hope to ultimately obtain the necessary funds.

(Lord Dufferin joined the meeting at this point, and was received by the Chairman and the officers of the Association.)

Continuing the discussion, Mr. Barrett, of Glasgow, urged that it was not necessary to wait for the completion of the Museum catalogue, but that they might proceed with what they already had in hand. The question of local literature was one of great importance. He had turned his attention to this, and had found very serious deficiencies in this department. He pointed out that it was impossible to say beforehand what particular literature was likely to prove valuable. It often happened that the stone which the builder rejected became the head of the corner, and it was their duty to accumulate without any *à priori* opinions on their comparative value.

Mr. Councillor Rawson, of Manchester, said the most important point after all was the classification to be adopted, the books to be admitted, and those to be excluded. There was a good deal of difference of opinion on this point. He was fain to admit that certain kinds of literature really did not seem worth preserving, and among them he reluctantly but firmly included sermons. (Laughter.) They were probably all agreed as to the general scheme. As to the financial question, he suggested that they had a habit of overcoming difficulties of that kind in England, and, in any case, a little judicious pressure on the eve of an election might suffice to carry the point.

Mr. C. W. Sutton, of Manchester, said the question was one that for years had occupied the minds of English librarians, and he thought that the suggestion of Dr. Garnett showed the way in which it might be accomplished. He felt sure that the librarians of all libraries in England and throughout the world would co-operate with this object in view.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright, of Plymouth, recalled the valuable contributions of their old friend, Mr. Cornelius Walford, upon this subject, which, with Dr. Garnett's, provided a practical and valuable scheme for this great undertaking. He agreed that local literature should be carefully collected—nothing was unworthy of preservation: witness the demand made for election literature by Mr. Maunde Thompson. There could be no doubt that if local libraries had done this in the past much valuable material would have been preserved.

The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to visits.

THE MAZARINE LIBRARY.

The members were received at the Bibliothèque Mazarine, on the Quai Conti, by M. d'Artois and his colleagues.

The Bibliothèque Mazarine was originally formed by Cardinal Mazarin, the celebrated Minister of young King Louis XIV., in 1643. It was established in the Collège des Quatre Nations, its present abode, in 1674, and made a Public Library in 1691. It is now one of the four Government Public Libraries in Paris, and it received its present Constitution from a "décret du Président de la République" issued 7th April, 1887. Its staff consists of one Conservateur-Administrateur, three Conservateurs, one Bibliothécaire, three Sous-Bibliothécaires, six Attachés, one Commis d'Ordre, four Gardiens (*i.e.*, Attendants). It is supported by a Government allowance: for salaries, 32,500 fr. (£1280); for purchases, bindings, and all other expenses together, 15,000 fr. (£600); and by extensive gifts of books from the French Government. As regards its arrangement, there is an alphabetical catalogue of authors for all books in the library, and a class catalogue only for the main part of the *ancien fonds* (*i.e.*, books belonging to the library before the Revolution). The number of volumes is about 300,000, not including 5800 manuscripts, and 1000 incunables. The printed catalogue of the manuscripts, compiled by M. Molinier, is in progress; it will consist of four volumes, of which three have been published. The library is specially rich in printed books of the sixteenth century and beginning of the seventeenth. Bibles, commentaries on the Bible, grammars and dictionaries, ancient medicine, Italian authors of the sixteenth century, and Mazarinades (*i.e.*, political pamphlets issued against Minister Mazarin during the period of riots in Paris known as the Fronde).

The Library is open to the public at large on week days, excepting the period from 15th September to 1st October, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Its average number of readers is as follows:—

Per year,	-	-	-	-	-	11,000
Per month in winter,	-	-	-	-	-	1050
Per month in summer,	-	-	-	-	-	750
Per day,	-	-	-	-	-	40

SOCIÉTÉ DE L'HISTOIRE DU PROTESTANTISME FRANÇAIS.

M. N. Weiss, the Librarian of the Société de l'Histoire du Protestantisme Français, in the Rue des Saint-Pères, received the

members and delivered a short address explaining the work of the society, and describing the Library, and exhibited some of the rare volumes of the collection.

The Society was established in 1852 by the efforts of M. Charles Read. Its aim is, according to its constitution, "to search for and collect, for study and publication, all unpublished or printed documents of interest for the history of the French-speaking Protestant churches". It was incorporated by Government ("reconnue comme établissement d'utilité publique," *i.e.*, legally empowered to own property and accept gifts or legacies) on 13th July, 1870. The number of members of the Committee is at present sixteen. The President now in charge is M. le Baron Fernand de Schickler. The creation of a library was decided upon in the year 1865, and in the course of a few years the idea proved an entire success. The number of volumes, which at the beginning of 1867 did not exceed 500, was raised to 7000 in the following year. This rapid increase was mainly due to some very generous gifts, the custom of giving which has continued, among French Protestants, to the present day. The Library was first opened to the public on 5th February, 1869. It was officially styled "Bibliothèque du Protestantisme Français". By this appellation the Society wished to convey the idea that they did not consider it so much their own as morally the common property of all French Protestants. In the year 1885, the Library was removed from its previous abode in the Place Vendôme, to its present chambers, 54 Rue des Saint-Pères. The installation is very perfect, all rare or precious books being preserved in fire-proof and thief-proof safes. Its present number of printed volumes is 25,000 to 30,000, and in manuscript, 300 to 400, and its average yearly number of readers is 400 to 500; of books read on the premises, 2000 to 3000; of books lent out, 250.

SECOND DAY.

The meetings were resumed on Tuesday morning. M. Leopold Delisle, the Administrateur Général of the Bibliothèque Nationale, read a paper entitled

SIR KENELM DIGBY AND THE ANCIENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRENCH LIBRARIES AND GREAT BRITAIN, *Library*, v. 5, p. 1.

Mr. Richardson, of Glasgow, moved a vote of thanks to the author for his paper, and more especially for his thoughtful con-

sideration in having it printed for their use. After what they had seen at the libraries yesterday, however, they must be aware of the great importance and interest to bibliophiles of these MSS. M. Delisle had given them much valuable information which could not fail to prove very useful when similar MSS. came up for examination in England. He admitted that England had carried off MSS., the loss of which Frenchmen might well deplore; but, on the other hand, Frenchmen had on more than one occasion taken over documents of the greatest interest to Englishmen. He thought they might cry quits in this respect.

Mr. J. Leighton, in seconding the vote of thanks, alluded to the appropriateness of the subject of the paper at an international meeting, it manifestly possessing a very general interest.

M. Delisle thanked the members for their appreciative remarks in respect of his paper which he was afraid did not merit their eulogiums.

M. Omont, the Librarian of the Department of Manuscripts in the Bibliothèque Nationale, read a paper

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SPREADING A KNOWLEDGE OF THE
VALUABLE MANUSCRIPTS CONTAINED IN THE PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE LIBRARIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

M. Gabriel Marcel, of the Bibliothèque Nationale, read a paper entitled

SUR QUELQUES CARTES ANCIENNES DE L'AMÉRIQUE BRITANNIQUE
EXPOSÉES EN CE MOMENT À LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE,

which dealt with a number of ancient maps of British America then being exhibited, and which gave some interesting details concerning the discovery of America, and upon the life in and the development of a number of the cities of the United States. Incidentally the paper referred to the exaggerated notion of the part Columbus played in the discovery of the American continent, and to the little known work of a native of Bristol who was instrumental in making known to the world a very considerable part of the continent.

Dr. Blumberg, of Southport, in moving a vote of thanks, said that every one who had listened to this eloquent paper would appreciate its importance to English and United States citizens. The paper threw much light not only on the discovery of America, but also upon the life and development of a number of cities of the United States. Columbus, in his opinion, had been somewhat over-rated. There

were certainly other men before him who had firmly entertained the idea that there was a country in the far west which would ultimately be discovered.

Mr. J. J. Ogle, of Bootle, seconded the vote of thanks. The paper took them back to a date much farther than they could have anticipated. They were grateful for reprints, because many of them who could read French perfectly well were unable to follow the paper while it was being read.

M. Bouchot, the keeper of the Prints Department of the Bibliothèque Nationale, contributed

NOTES ON A BOOK IN THE BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE, ILLUSTRATED BY AN ENGLISH ARTIST FOR A FRENCH GENTLEMAN OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

The painter's name was Belliard, and the French nobleman the Duc de Nivernois. There was no discussion, and the reading of papers was adjourned for the transaction of the annual business of the Association.

BUSINESS MEETING.

Mr. Councillor Rawson of Manchester was voted to the chair. He explained that the first business was to consider the Report of the Council. As copies had been distributed to all the members, he proposed that it should be taken as read, and adopted. This was unanimously agreed to. The Report was as follows :—

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1891-2
TO THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

IN congratulating the Association upon one of the most important and successful years of its existence, the Council feel that although much has been accomplished, more still remains to be done, and they trust that members will not rest satisfied with the record of the past twelve months, but rather strive to make the year to come a more fruitful one.

MEMBERSHIP.

The list includes 27 Honorary Members, 32 Life Members, and 428 Ordinary Members.

The Council, desiring to recognise the eminent services of Sir John Lubbock to the Public Library Movement, proposed that he

should be elected an Honorary Member. He was accordingly elected by a unanimous vote of the Association.

On receiving the announcement of his election Sir John Lubbock wrote thanking the Association for the honour it had done him, and expressing the gratification he felt that his work in connection with Libraries was appreciated by the members of the Association.

OBITUARY.

Perhaps the most severe blow the Association has received since its foundation has been the untimely death of Mr. E. C. Thomas on February 5, of this year. It is unnecessary to recapitulate the story of his life, which was briefly told in *The Library* for March, 1892; but the Council cannot allow the occasion to pass without recording their deep sorrow at the loss of an attached friend and colleague. Mr. Thomas was actively engaged in the welfare of the Association almost from its foundation. He became Joint-Secretary with Mr. Tedder in 1879, and between 1882 and 1887 bore on his shoulders the entire burden of our affairs. It was not until 1890 that he finally quitted the office which he had filled for eleven years with credit to himself and benefit to the Association. The Council think a tribute is due on their part to the memory of a man who not only gave up to the wellbeing of Librarians and Librarianship the promise of a brilliant professional and literary career, without hope or thought of personal profit or distinction, but who endeared himself to all of our members by unvarying courtesy and the best qualities of a thoroughly honourable and high-minded gentleman.

The sad death of Mr. Edward Ayton Holme-Kay, Librarian of the Baillie Institution, Glasgow, which occurred at Nottingham, shortly after the conclusion of the annual meeting there, was keenly felt by all who knew him personally, or were interested in the promise of his career. His amiable nature had endeared him to his associates, and his loss under very sorrowful circumstances will long be remembered.

A quaint figure passed away in March of the present year, in the person of Mr. Robert Major Holborn, of Highbury, London, who was a keen supporter of the Association, and a generous donor to several of its objects.

Still another genial member was lost by the recent death of Bailie William Wilson, late chairman of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, and ex-Preceptor of Hutcheson's Hospital in that city. He distinguished

himself in Glasgow by services in connection with the Mitchell Library, and will doubtless be well remembered by all who were at the Association dinner at Ayr for his humorous address as chairman.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

These have been regularly held, and the attendances have been good.

At the October meeting, held at Hanover Square, Mr. J. D. Brown read a paper on "A Critical Analysis of the Association's Work, 1877-1891, with Suggestions for Future Operations;" and a second paper was read by Mr. MacAlister, entitled, "Can Mudie help the Public Libraries?—A Practical Note."

At the November meeting, Mr. J. H. Quinn read a paper on "A Card Charging System for Free Libraries".

At the December meeting, a paper was read by Mr. E. M. Borrajo on "The Municipal Libraries of Paris".

The January meeting was held at the Chelsea Central Library, when the report of the Committee on Size-Notation was discussed; and Mr. J. H. Quinn read a paper on "The Work of the Chelsea Public Libraries".

At the February meeting, held at Hanover Square, the discussion on size-notation was resumed.

The March meeting was held at the People's Palace, when a paper by Miss James was read on "A Year's Work in the People's Palace Library, 1891".

The April monthly meeting was held at Hanover Square, when the arrangements for the annual meeting were discussed.

At the May meeting, Mr. Hew Morrison read a paper on "The Edinburgh Public Library and its First Year's Work".

At the June meeting, Mr. David Stott read a paper on "Book-sellers' Discount to Free Libraries".

MUSEUM.

The decision of the Council to form a Museum of everything relating to Libraries and their working has been acted upon, and the collection of specimens was commenced immediately after the Nottingham meeting. A circular inviting contributions of printed forms, models, stationery, etc., was sent out to all the members of the Association, and though only a few members have as yet responded, the Council cherish the hope that before another year has passed

the Museum will contain a specimen of every form or appliance used in Libraries. At present the Museum is housed in the Clerkenwell Public Library, London, E.C., where it may be seen at any time. It contains a fair number of minor appliances, contributed chiefly by manufacturers; but promises to grow to respectable dimensions if encouraged by gifts of the forms, etc., which every Librarian has it in his power to make. A suggested list of articles desirable to have represented was issued with the circular previously mentioned; and the Council would strongly urge upon members the importance of forming a complete permanent collection of the apparatus from which so much aid is obtained in modern Library work. A considerable number of Librarians, commissioners, and persons interested in Libraries have visited the collection since December, 1891, and it is felt that an increased use of the Museum as a means of suggestion and education would follow the establishment of a larger and more complete representation of apparatus.

THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS (England).

Members are already aware of what has been done in this department of the Association's objects, but it is useful to record in the annual reports a summary of the year's work.

It was reported last year that the Committee on Legislation had requested Mr. E. L. Fanshawe to prepare a Draft Bill consolidating all the existing Library Acts for England. A Bill was drafted, and the Committee held several meetings to consider in detail all the clauses of the draft. Many amendments were proposed and discussed; but in regard to some of the more important it was felt that under the existing circumstances it would be unwise to press their inclusion, and it was finally decided that the Bill should be in effect merely a consolidation, with such amendments of construction and interpretation as might safely be introduced in such a Bill, and that the amendments desired by the Committee should be urged upon the attention of Parliament after the second reading.

Sir John Lubbock was asked to take charge of the Bill, and he at once agreed to do so; and it is chiefly to his assiduous attention that the Association is indebted for carrying so considerable a measure through an expiring Parliament.

The Right Honourable John Morley, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Mr. Francis Sharp Powell (now Sir Francis Sharp Powell, Bart.), and Mr. Redmond joined with Sir John Lubbock in backing the Bill.

When the Bill had passed the second reading a number of amendments were proposed by various members on behalf of the Association, and were discussed by the Select Committee to which the Bill had been referred. Some of these were rejected, but several of considerable importance were accepted, and the Bill became law on June 27, 1892, and will take effect on the 1st of October.

The Association has long included among its objects the reform of Public Library law, but from various causes all previous attempts at legislation have failed. Consequently, the Council regard this piece of work with peculiar gratification, not only for its immediate intrinsic value, but as an earnest of the reforms that may be achieved in the future by continuing to work on the same lines.

PUBLICATIONS.

THE LIBRARY.—The Council regret that the hitherto uninterrupted punctuality of their official organ has during the last few months not been kept up. The causes are already known to members, and it is only necessary to say that so far as the editor is concerned no blame attaches to him. Difficulties as to publication culminated towards the end of 1891, and Mr. MacAlister felt himself compelled to sever his connection with Mr. Stock. Much worry, as well as increased work and pecuniary loss, were involved in the change, and the Council feel that the Association is much indebted to Mr. MacAlister for his perseverance and courage in continuing his self-imposed task. They are glad to be able to report that he has now surmounted most of his difficulties, and that they hope *The Library* will resume its wonted punctuality with every prospect of continuance.

THE MANUAL.—Part I. of the *Library Manual*, including three sections—*viz.*, “Legislation,” “Staff,” and “Appliances”—was ready for press when the passing of the new Library Act, more promptly than was expected, rendered the “Legislation” section to a large extent obsolete, and it was decided not to publish it in the form originally intended. As the work done by Messrs. Fovargue and Ogle will always be of value to students of Library law, it was decided to issue a limited number for sale to the members and the public, and to publish the two other sections separately. This necessity suggested a change of plan, which the Council have authorised the editors to carry out. It seemed a pity that the work of those contributors who

had finished their sections should be kept back indefinitely because of the delay in finishing others, and at the same time the plan of issuing the sections in parts had the disadvantage of assuming the publication finally of a complete work that might never be finished. The proposal, therefore, now adopted is to issue the sections as a series of "Handbooks". This possesses many advantages over the old plan, and does not preclude the Council, when the series is complete, from re-issuing the whole in one volume.

Mr. J. D. Brown's "Handbook of Library Appliances"—has been published. Mr. Cowell's treatise on "Staff" was ready for press, and would have been issued also, but for his desire to render it still more complete by an appendix which is in preparation.

THE YEAR BOOK.—A new edition of this important publication has been issued. It is a great improvement upon the last, and contains several new features which will be much appreciated by members; notably, the careful list of all the papers and reports that have been published by the Association, and Mr. Brown's admirable index thereto. This is a long desired piece of work well done. The chronological list of annual meetings, with the names of presidents and places of meeting, the list of publications with prices, and the syllabuses of the examinations, with specimen questions, are also useful.

PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

The adoptions of the Public Libraries Acts during the year ending August, 1892, although fewer than those mentioned in the last report of the Council, still show a steady increase, while the rejections for the period named are happily fewer in proportion than usual. Within the County of London two places only have adopted the Acts, namely:—

Penge, 1891.	St. Saviour's, Southwark, Nov. 1891.
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The following, in the immediate neighbourhood of the County of London, were:—

Edmonton, Oct., 1891.	Walthamstow, Feb., 1892.
Tottenham, Oct., 1891.	Enfield, March, 1892.
Leyton, Nov., 1891.	Bromley (Kent), May, 1892.

In the English provinces the adoptions were:—

Colchester, Sept. 1891.	Lincoln, Jan. 1892.
York, October 1891.	

In Scotland the only adoption was:—

Jedburgh, May, 1892.

In all, twelve places have availed themselves of the provisions of the Acts, and only two districts have refused to adopt them, namely :

Gainsborough in 1891, and Marylebone (London) in 1892.

In several other towns the movement has been brought forward with some hope of ultimate success, and it is expected that the next report of the Council may show even greater progress.

New buildings, or adaptations of old buildings, have been opened for library purposes at:—

Aberdeen,	Lewisham,
Ayr,	Manchester,
Bermondsey,	Nottingham (Radford),
Birmingham,	Penge,
Brechin,	Plymouth,
Handsworth,	Stoke-Newington,
Holborn,	Swansea (Ireboeth),
Kensington,	Whitechapel.

EXAMINATIONS.

The first examination under the new scheme was held in June, when seven candidates offered themselves—with the result that two obtained certificates in French and English, in the Professional, and one a full certificate for the preliminary examination.

DONATIONS.

The very cordial thanks of the Association are due to the United States Bureau of Education for a generous gift of 236 copies of Cutter's Cataloguing Rules for the use of members.

Another valuable gift was received in the shape of a large parcel of Bulletin No. I. of the New York State Library. This Bulletin contains a complete account of the organisation of the Library School, over which Professor Dewey, our honorary member, so ably presides.

For both these gifts the Council, on behalf of the Association, return cordial thanks.

Mr. Thomas Mason (Joint Hon. Secretary), briefly moved that the number of Honorary Secretaries be reduced from two to one, and that a paid Assistant Secretary be appointed.

This was seconded by Mr. J. H. Quinn, of Chelsea, who said he thought it would be better to make the Secretary an allowance for office expenses, leaving him to find his own clerk, as this would prevent any friction arising from distribution of work.

Mr. Cowell agreed that it was very desirable to have one Secretary and one only, the division of work being incompatible with efficiency. With regard to the second proposal, he was under the impression that an allowance to a lady assistant had already been agreed to, and that the services of such a person had been utilised. He thought that there was hardly work enough for one man's whole time.

The Chairman said he must ask members to deal with Mr. Mason's motion first, and would now ask them to vote upon it. It was carried unanimously.

Mr. Quinn proposed that a fixed sum, not to exceed £50, be allotted by the Council to the Honorary Secretary for clerical assistance.

Mr. Mason seconded this proposal.

Mr. MacAlister, in reply to a question, said that the sum actually paid for clerical assistance at present was £26 per annum.

Mr. Quinn asked whether that sum was considered to be sufficient.

Mr. MacAlister explained that skilled assistance was often required, and it would be absurd to expect to get that for 10s. a week.

Mr. Humphery thought the time had arrived when a permanent paid officer should be appointed. He had had a great experience of secretarial work. He had for twenty-three years held the post of secretary to one Society, and considered that it would be far better to pay their money and have exactly what they wanted. Were it not that two amendments could not be before the meeting at the same time, he would have proposed that the resolution should create a paid secretaryship.

A member said it had not been made clear what was the amount of service required to be rendered. They were therefore obviously unable to arrive at an opinion as to what would be an adequate remuneration. He moved as an amendment that the Secretary should be empowered to incur such expenditure as he might find necessary, subject to the approval of the Council. The amount might be subsequently increased if found desirable.

Mr. Quinn asked permission to withdraw his motion in favour of this.

A member said that if Mr. Humphery would put his sentiments in the form of a resolution he would be pleased to second it. He thought that before deciding what remuneration to offer for the paid secretaryship, it would have been well to present them with the balance sheet, so that they would know how they stood financially.

Mr. Russell Spokes regretted that no notice had been given of this very important discussion. He thought this was unfair to members who, though absent, would certainly have been present had they known that questions so fundamentally affecting the interests of the society were to be brought forward.

Mr. MacAlister explained that as no notice of these motions had been given they would not, if carried, be effective until confirmed by a Special General Meeting. He would, himself, have objected on the score of order, but as there was such an unusually large number of members present, he thought it best not to be too formal, as it would be an undoubted advantage to a later meeting to know the general feeling of the members.

Mr. Hand, of Oldham, moved that the further consideration of the question be deferred until the following morning at 10 a.m.

This was agreed to, and the reading of papers was resumed.

Professor Beljame in the Chair.

Mr. Councillor Harry Rawson, J.P., Deputy Chairman of the Manchester Libraries, then read a paper,

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER :
THEIR HISTORY, ORGANISATION, AND WORK (*Library*, v, 4, p. 288).

In 1852, he said, Manchester voted for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate. This was the first adoption of the Public Library Acts in England. The rate was used only for building, all the books being received by gift. In 1855, the town voted for 1d. in the pound, a portion of which was available for books. The growth of the Library was rapid and wonderful, and branch libraries were established in various parts of the town. A special Act of Parliament was then obtained to increase the rate to 2d. in the pound. The 1d. rate now brings in £12,000. The Library contains 206,000 volumes. There are 67,000 registered borrowers, and 703,803 volumes were lent out for home reading. Last year the daily average of readers was 2288. During 1890 and 1891, the total expended in replacing and repairing of lost and damaged books amounted only to 36s. The Manchester Libraries were the first to employ lady assistants, and the experiment

had proved successful. The salaries vary from 10s. to 30s. a week for assistants. In the course of reading, Mr. Rawson said that there was an average in the public libraries in England of one volume for every 190 persons.

Mr. Alderman W. H. Bailey, of Salford, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Rawson and called attention to the numerous contingent of members hailing from Lancashire. More than 300 years ago Montaigne had said that "there were many fools in France, and that the future of the country would depend on the wisdom of her sons". He (Montaigne) went on to advocate compulsory education, and said that if he could distinguish the fools from the others, he would take away their children and educate them at the cost of the State. Unfortunately, no means were available of distinguishing the fools; but he flattered himself that they in Lancashire had better appreciated the wisdom of the three-century-old French sage even than had Frenchmen themselves. He alluded to the history of the development of the Free Library movement in Lancashire, pointing out that they did not wait for the Free Libraries Act to start the movement.

Mr. MacAlister, in seconding the vote of thanks to Mr. Rawson for his admirable paper, thought it would not be too much to say that it was one of the most valuable contributions which they had heard for years, and would be of great use to all who were interested in Library work. It was exactly what they were in need of, *i.e.*, a full and complete account of what had been and was being done in a representative Public Library. He had observed that the Librarian in France was not a bibliophile in the sense of a cherisher of the books for their own sakes, for he cut up books and split them up into a large number of separate volumes in such a way that they were available for use by a very large number of readers at one and the same time, and yet they were often, curiously enough, less deteriorated than when preserved intact in their morocco or other bindings. This practice of subdividing costly and rare volumes had much in its favour. He mentioned that in one library he had seen a choice collection of wall papers made up like a book and duly catalogued.

Mr. Humphery said that the recent development of technical education in England was bringing about a very great change in the scope of Public Libraries. He agreed that the plan alluded to by Mr. MacAlister might with advantage be copied in their own country. It would now become the duty of library committees to provide

students in technical schools with works of an expensive character. Whenever it came to their knowledge that such works were in request, it was their duty to supply them. This was a matter they would have seriously to take into account in future.

Mr. Cowell expressed his admiration of the bright example set by Manchester in the matter of branch Libraries. They had imitated this to some extent in Liverpool. Thanks to the sums of money provided by the sale of beer and whisky, they had been enabled to spend £1600 on technical books; and they would be very pleased to learn anything from the city of Paris on this point, and to graft such suggestions as appeared valuable and practical on to their Liverpool system.

A proposal to put the discussion on Size Notation first on the list for the following day fell through for want of a seconder.

Mr. Roger de Coverley then read a paper on

OUR PRESENT METHOD OF CLOTH BINDING,

and denounced in strong terms the stabbing of book-sheets, which injured the paper. The wire-stitching is equally bad, and the coarse and clumsy modern cloth bindings are inartistic and injurious to the book. The system of plain boards which died between 1830 and 1840 was much better, and he warmly advocated the French method of using paper covers in which to issue books.

Mr. John Leighton said—Mr. Coverley has spoken upon publishers' bookbinding, and what he thinks it should be, but with the eye of a bookbinder *de luxe*, who loves his art. The issue binding, be it in paper or cloth, is important, some of the latter being even more durable than leather. I am old enough to remember the time when all our standard books could be bought in the sheets, unbound and unfolded—a thing that I wish could be done now, as it is next to impossible to bind a book beautifully that has been issued as a volume before, that has had its back battered after its foldings have been cut by a saw or sewn with wire. Now, with regard to French books and their mode of publication, one cannot too highly commend the style of issue in paper, particularly as it inculcates careful perusal, and positively invites (if of value) rebinding at pleasure. The English reader is rougher than the French; and he will hardly credit me when I tell him that I have seen a ship's library of nautical books in paper covers that had been in

daily use, and that they had lasted for years. A quarter of a century since, the French knew not how to bind in cloth at all, or how to impress by machinery the blocks for their decoration. English cloth binding was their envy; but I think that I may say without fear of contradiction that now, both in design and in workmanship, French cloth-work is, whilst neater, far more solid and enduring than English work of the same class. Now, as to the durability of buckram as a binding, it is certainly more lasting than leather, and quite as enduring as vellum; for in it there need be no animal or mineral substance whatever save the traces of size in the paper and a *souçon* of glue on the back. The French have always been grand binders in leather, as the thousands of tomes we have seen show; but, unfortunately, they are not all in virgin calf, having been stained and mottled to imitate marble—a process that has shortened their durability by perhaps a century. Of elegant French binding, one cannot speak too highly; but, truly, it is *haute luxe* only fit for faëry reading or angelic perusal, the leather being reduced to the thinness of paper and the tooling to the semblance of golden thread. Morocco is the prince of leathers, and I like to see a book bound in the true hide and not in one of the layers of its cuticle.

The meeting then adjourned.

VISITS TO MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES.

In the afternoon, carriages, which were generously provided by the Municipality of Paris, met the members at the École des Beaux Arts and conveyed them to the Forney Library, the most typical of the technical Libraries of Paris, situated in one of the manufacturing quarters of the city.

THE FORNEY LIBRARY.*

“Apart from practical work, books are insufficient of themselves for the education either of the labourer or of the artisan engaged in manufacture. To complete their technical instruction, and above all to mould and refine their taste, the study of patterns is a *sine quâ non*. To this idea is due the creation of Municipal Libraries for industrial art, where patterns (in the form of prints, photographs, and designs) can be studied or borrowed for home use, which are of the greatest possible service to the section of the working-class population of Paris whose callings are confined to art or derive their inspiration from it. These industrial arts which have always

* Abstracted from an Official Report.

been the glory of Paris: the cabinet-maker's, the porcelain and fan-painter's, the bronze worker's and embroiderer's; that of the skilled pattern designers of both sexes; all these find the elements of study and comparison, and, as a consequence, of inspiration in the Industrial Art Libraries. There are ten of these Libraries, eight of which, however, are really sections of ordinary Libraries. The most important, if not altogether the oldest in date, of these institutions is the Forney Library. Founded in 1886 by means of a legacy of 200,000 francs made over to the city of Paris by M. Aimé-Samuel Forney, it was installed in the Faubourg St. Antoine, in a hall fitted up specially for its accommodation, which in consequence of the purchases and numerous generous gifts that continually contribute to its enrichment, is already insufficient for its purpose. It is composed of two sections, one for reading and designing in the building, the other for issuing designs for study at home. The first comprises collections of art and of science, the rarity or the high value of which is a bar to letting them outside the building; the works number about 1300, ranging in cost from 20 to 1000 francs. The other section at the outset only comprised volumes below 20 francs in value; but the generous gifts of the Directory of Fine Arts and municipal subscriptions have since enriched it to the extent of doubling in number the more costly works of the reference library. Thus it offers the unique advantage of lending for home-reading publications of the value of several hundred francs. To do so without risk, and at the same time to obviate the undue detention of a work in the same hands, and the retention by one reader of a large work of which perhaps he only wants a few pages, one volume is formed into two or several, according to its importance, and in the case of a collection of engravings the plates are taken out and placed between cardboards for separate circulation. All those relating to iron and metal are put between cardboard backs of a certain colour; those relating to textiles and embroideries in backs of another colour; architecture in others, and so on. The colour of the cardboard back indicates the class of design; frequently one volume is divided into twelve or more, and thus a book is made of great utility with an increased circulation by this simple method. Free lectures are delivered in the winter on industrial art and science, and on the designs, books, and models in the libraries, thus making these Technical Libraries in reality the workman's Universities. In this way the Library multiplies the services rendered, and keeps

the deserving class of seekers after knowledge up to date with scientific and artistic works. This loan section amounts to about 1500 works, forming almost 3000 volumes, and 35,000 engravings and photographs that relate to the various industries of decoration in stone, in wood, and in metal, in pottery, in weaving and building. Opened to the public on March 1, 1886, it had lent at the close of the same year 9413 volumes or engravings. In 1890 this total rose to 39,639."

* The Municipal Free Public Libraries in the First and Second Arrondissements were then visited, under the guidance of M. Hippolyte Philibert. These Libraries were commenced in the year 1878, when nine were founded. Progress has been made each year since, and now there are 64 in full work. When the scheme is completed there will be eighty; one in each ward of Paris, or four in each of the 20 Arrondissements or Mayoralties, there being four wards in each Arrondissement. When first established they were not all lending libraries; but books are now lent for home reading, and only in a few buildings is accommodation provided for reading on the premises. The needs of the working classes chiefly have been studied in the creation of this department of educational work. To quote from a report presented to the Library Association by order of the Minister of Public Instruction, "these libraries were erected with a view to the moral elevation of the people as well as their education. The Municipal Library opens its doors and distributes its books free of cost to all who struggle to fill up the gaps left by an incomplete education, or who are seeking an intelligent diversion for their hours of relaxation. To the former it acts as a second school, while it provides the latter with innocent occupation, and thus protects them from coarse and harmful amusements, on which the town artisan is too often tempted to squander his time, his money, and his health." The libraries are only open in the evening and two hours on Sunday. The authorities consider that there are many reasons why the libraries should be closed in the day time, when respectable artisans are engaged in earning their living. Books are therefore given out for two hours every evening of week days, generally from eight to ten o'clock, and also for two hours on every Sunday morning. The large library of the eleventh Arrondissement is an exception to this rule, for it is open the whole day. All the libraries

* In this description of the Municipal Free Public Libraries free use has been made of a valuable report by Alderman Bailey of Salford.

are controlled by a Central Committee of the Municipality, to which is entrusted the duty of collecting new books and the management of the officials. New music is added from time to time in all the libraries, and after careful experiments made by the Committee this branch has become very popular with the people, and has given great satisfaction to the promoters. The great demand for novels in these libraries has had the serious attention of the Committee, for the conditions are very similar to those found in the free libraries of Great Britain, and which in the early days of the free library movement caused considerable discouragement and anxiety in the minds of earnest men, who thought that more harm than good was being done by the circulation of this class of literature. In these French libraries in 1890 it may be stated that out of a circulation of 1,386,642 books, 690,105 were works of fiction, or about fifty per cent. The administration gave orders to discourage this sort of reading by kind paternal advice, and pressure being placed upon borrowers by the officials. The borrowers were invited to read more solid books; this was done, but it was found that the average number of readers fell from 24,764 to 22,517, for, rather than read instructive books, the novel readers ceased to read at all, and did not patronise the libraries. The Committee then wisely considered that their readers might do many worse things than read novels; and that artisans who worked hard in the day time cannot be expected to read works which require "a certain tension of the mind for which their early education has little prepared them".

BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE L'ARSÉNAL.

At the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, in the Rue de Sully, the members were received by M.M. Muller, Bonnefon and Funck-Brentano.

This Library originated in the private collection of the Marquis de Paulmy d'Argenson, who, besides the books he collected himself, had purchased the greatest part of the library of the Duc de la Vallière. It was made a public library during the Revolutionary period, on 9 Floréal an V. (28 April, 1797). It derives its present constitution from a Decree of April 7, 1887. The Library has no other resources than the Government's yearly allowances and books given by the Ministry of Public Instruction. The store of books consists of—Ancien Fonds (original stock), definite number of volumes, 375,191 ;

Nouveau Fonds (in progress), present number of volumes, 78,728; Manuscripts, 9654. A printed catalogue of the manuscripts is being compiled by M. Henry Martin, one of the Conservateurs. Several volumes have already been issued. A peculiar feature of the Manuscripts Collection is the presence in this library of the records of the Bastille Castle and Prison, which came there after the Castle's storming and destruction in 1789. A catalogue of these records is being compiled and printed under the care of one of the staff, M. Franz Funck-Brentano. As to modern printed books, the library is especially rich in French prose fiction and French newspapers of this century. Average daily number of readers, 90; average daily number of books read, 200.

MUSÉE CARNAVALET.

The members were then conducted under the guidance of M. Lucien Faucou, the assistant curator, to the Musée Carnavalet, and afforded an opportunity of examining its richly-filled galleries.

This historical Museum of the City of Paris contains a collection of monuments, pictures, sculptures, and other objects relating to the history of Paris in all ages. The fine collection of documents referring to the time of the Revolution is largely due to the generosity of M. Alfred de Liesville, Conservateur-adjoint of the Museum in 1881. The Library is open to the public on every week day from 10 to 4 in winter, and from 11 to 5 in summer, but it is closed on Sundays. It contains about 80,000 volumes and 70,000 prints and old plans relating in particular to the history of Paris and the French Revolution.

At three o'clock the members assembled in the principal gallery and were received by Mons. Vorbe, secretary to the Municipal Council, who had been deputed by the Council to welcome the members of the Congress. M. Vorbe thus addressed the visitors:—

Gentlemen,—The Bureau of the Municipal Council of Paris did me the great honour of appointing me to represent them to receive you in their behalf, and bid you welcome to our city. Yielding to their keen and warm sympathy with all who with enlightened minds devote themselves to science and art, and give themselves up to work which elevates the thought, exalts the heart, and widens the intellectual horizon of nations, the Bureau asked me to warmly beg that you would consider yourselves at home. They have the sincere conviction that this will be all the more easy since the

qualities which have incited you to study our systems will also lead you to study our history, which allows us to live in the past, and will incite you also to conscientiously examine the productions of genius (for, in your occupation, the beautiful and the great constitute your customary surroundings), they believe the sight of our scientific and artistic wealth will possess for your minds an invincible attraction. The Library and the Historical Museum of the City of Paris were founded by M. Jules Cousin, their present curator, who loves everything relating to Paris, and has a great liking for all that can throw light on the tragic and important events of which Paris has been the scene. My colleague, Mons. Lucien Faucou, has shown you the treasures of our Museum, the rare and valuable books of our Library, as well as the most interesting pieces in our collection.

In the name of the Paris Municipal Council, I thank you, and I congratulate you very sincerely for having chosen our beloved city for the sitting of your Congress. I have every confidence, and I feel quite sure that I am the interpreter of the unanimous feelings of my colleagues, when I express the hope that these mutual visits, paid by the citizens of two friendly nations, in stimulating the progress of science and art, in pointing out to nations that they are the pursuers of a common aim, as each of them live on the labour of all, will contribute to the mutual greatness of nations, to their development, and to their development and free union in the bosom of Humanity. Paris considers as hers all those who work to increase and enlarge the scientific and æsthetic domain of the human mind; she is particularly happy and flattered to receive you within her walls. Your presence on her soil gratifies her intimate feelings, her dearest and most ardent aspirations. May your pilgrimage in this country, where are manifested labour, talent, and human genius in its power, its grace, and variety, and which represents such a stupendous amount of effort, the patient work of so many centuries passed by, the incalculable labour of so many dead and gone generations, affirm and strengthen your sympathy for France; as our love increases for the United Kingdom when, under an easy and communicable form (transferable as ideas are to the form of a book), we enjoy the company of your illustrious thinkers. We secure a high intellectual and moral unity in studying your great historians and the works of your scientific writers, and we charm our leisure hours by the perusal of the noble pages of your

poets. I attribute much of my own thinking to your fatherland, since it came to me from your authors; and for the sake of the generous idea and the excellent intention which brought you among us, I bid you doubly welcome, and remind you in the eloquent words of Robertson, that "No true thought, no pure resolution, no loving deed ever existed in vain".

Mr. MacAlister, Hon. Secretary of the Association, in reply said:—

Monsieur,—I regret very much not to be able to reply to your kind words as I should like in your own graceful language. But you will be persuaded, I am sure, that we feel a deep gratitude for your most kind welcome. Although it is true we came here to learn I fear that people are usually right in accusing us Englishmen of relying too much on ourselves, and that we are inclined to ignore the foreigner. But we have received a lesson; the practical and useful work undertaken by the Parisian Municipality for the general welfare is full of hints for us. I am sure that we shall take advantage of these hints, and that after admiring your efforts we shall endeavour to imitate them; and the results thus obtained, I hope, will be for our country a new cause of gratitude towards yours for many lessons in the arts that make for culture and the graces of life. One of the most lasting and most appreciated effects of this Congress will be to strengthen between the English people and the grand city of Paris, the bonds of friendship which are to be found in the hearts of all of us, and in our English hearts feelings of gratitude, which I am happy, Monsieur, to be able to express, however inadequately.

THIRD DAY.

On Wednesday morning Prof. Beljame in the chair,
M. Chennevière, the director of the Ligue Française de l'enseignement, read a paper on

THE WORK OF THE LIGUE FRANÇAISE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORMATION OF POPULAR LIBRARIES FOR THE PEOPLE.

The Society was established before the inauguration of the present Republic for the dissemination of democratic literature. Now, from the Parisian headquarters of the League are sent works of

a technical and generally instructive character to all parts of the country, the commercial character of the district being especially considered.

Mr. MacAlister observed that much useful work was being carried on modestly by the League, which they would probably never have heard of had it not been for this meeting. The League had been in active working order for years in Paris, with ramifications all over the country, establishing libraries wherever the need was apparent. They had published a really marvellous catalogue, well worthy of attentive study. Their plan was to endeavour to find out what books were most needed in each particular district, and if no cheap editions existed they arranged for special issues to supply the public requirements. In that way money was economised, and the value of the Library to the district was enhanced. The League supplied everything that was likely to be wanted—not only books but models and designs for the villagers to draw from or use as patterns.

Mr. Ogle, while acknowledging the value of the operations of the French League, pointed out that work of a similar kind was being done in England by the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutions.

Mr. MacAlister replied that he had for years been intimate with the work done by the Yorkshire Union, but, as far as he knew, no technical works ever entered into their collection. The object of the French society was to instruct rather than to amuse. There was a great difference between the two. The French society reprinted and supplied cheap editions of expensive technical books, which would, from their cost be otherwise inaccessible to the poorer students. Originally a political institution, which had the spread of Republicanism for its object, they had, on the establishment of a Republic, instead of disbanding, turned their attention to educating the democracy.

Mr. Councillor Chivers, of Bath, read a paper on

FRENCH ARTISTS AND ENGLISH BOOKBINDERS.

This was elaborately illustrated by many beautiful drawings and prints in colour.

A paper by Mr. T. G. Law, the Librarian of the Signet Library, Edinburgh, was then read.

A PROPOSAL THAT THE ASSOCIATION SHOULD COMPILE AND ISSUE A "CATALOGUE OF EARLY ENGLISH BOOKS TO 1640," IN SUPPLEMENT TO THAT OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM (*Library*, v. 5, p. 97).

In the discussion which followed Mr. Kineton Parkes, of Leek, said that this was a matter which ought to receive the serious attention of the Association, and it was a work which it was emphatically the duty of the Association to undertake. It could be better done by the Association from the very fact that the Association numbered among its members not only the most eminent bibliographers, but representatives in every quarter of the United Kingdom where a Library existed. This being so, it was not likely that any books would be missed. Moreover, work in this immediate direction had already been commenced by Mr. Charles Sayle and others, and it should only be a question now as to whether the subject should be dealt with by the Council, or by a Committee constituted specially for the purpose.

Mr. Cowell did not think the matter of bibliography was a very important one to most of them, though none would deny the desirability of forming such a committee. The principal work would have to be done by College Librarians. He would support the proposal to appoint a committee to report to the Council on the best way in which the matter could be carried out.

Mr. Herne, of Leicester, said there were other Libraries containing literature of the period named besides the College Libraries. At Lancaster, for example, there was an old Municipal Library dating back over 300 years, containing books not to be met with elsewhere.

M. Delisle said the work that was being carried out in French libraries at the present time would permit them to ascertain all the books of English origin in the French libraries, and it would be very easy to compare the list with catalogues published in England, and thus to find out which of their number—unfortunately but too few—were not represented in English libraries.

The President added that some English books were not to be found in the British Museum, and he referred particularly to certain works of the seventeenth century, as, for example, a work published by Dryden in four volumes. These are missing in part in the British Museum collection. Two of the volumes are in the British Museum, and two are in Paris, so that neither country has a complete set.

On the motion of Mr. MacAlister, seconded by Mr. Cowell, it was decided to undertake the work, and that the question as to the best method of commencing be referred to the Council.

M. Julien Havet, Conservateur-Adjoint of the Bibliothèque Nationale, read a paper, entitled

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL LIBRARY (*Library*,
v. 4, p. 277).

Miss M. S. R. James, of the People's Palace Library, London, read a paper on

WOMEN LIBRARIANS (*Library*, v. 4, p. 217).

in the course of which she remarked, in reference to the objection that women were unfitted for some of the rougher and more disagreeable duties of a librarian, that a woman's look had often more effect on a miscreant who might be abusing a library than the forcible ejection or emphatic language of a man, and she was also quite as capable of conducting all the other routine business of a library.

Mr. Councillor Southern said that in Manchester they had for many years followed the principles advocated in the paper, and had largely employed women in their libraries as assistants. At the present time there were five libraries and three reading-rooms under the charge of women librarians. There was always a very large number of applications for these posts. The library in the west district of Manchester (Ancoats) was presided over by Miss Cassidy, who was doing very good work.

Mr. Lancaster, of St. Helens, said he had had twelve years experience of lady assistants, and had every reason to be satisfied with them.

Mr. Cowell said they had four lady assistants in Liverpool. The only disadvantage was that when women were discovered to have brains, and had begun to make themselves useful, they got married; and the Committee considered this was rather a nuisance.

Mr. MacAlister, in supporting a vote of thanks to the authoress, observed that in America the schools for librarians, were chiefly used by ladies. It was made a *sine quâ non* that each applicant should make a solemn statement that it was her intention to devote her life to library work—in fact, that she was determined not to be led away into the mazy paths of matrimony.

Mr. R. K. Dent, of Aston, presented a

REPORT ON FREE LECTURES IN CONNECTION WITH FREE
PUBLIC LIBRARIES (*Library*, v. 6, p. 354).

His enquiries had shown that if chatty, popular talks were given upon the books of a library, success was almost certain; and that

the free lecture movement was the missing link between the cases of unused books, and the people who do not quite understand or appreciate a library.

At the conclusion of the morning's business, Lord Dufferin, the British Ambassador, extended a cordial greeting to the members of the Association, whom he invited to visit the Embassy, and expressed his great regret that he had been prevented from attending regularly at the sittings.

At half-past three o'clock the members were entertained at a Reception given by the *Cercle de la Librairie*. The Club proved on this occasion that its reputation for generous hospitality was well earned, for the welcome extended to the Association was of the warmest description. In addition to the generous luncheon provided, was an excellent string band, which rendered "God Save the Queen" and "The Marseillaise," and many other pieces; and an exhibition of choice books published by members of the Club. Each visitor was presented with a set of the publications of the Cercle. Among the members of the Cercle present were:—MM. Armand Templier, president; Henri Belin, secretary; Félix Alcan, treasurer; G. Masson, Eugène Plon, Paul Delalain, past presidents; Just Chatrousse, Person Dubief, and other members of the Council and private members. The beautiful rooms of the French Publishers' Club, and its genial hospitality, will long remain in the memory of each of the English men and women who were privileged to be present on this occasion.

The Library of the University, or the Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne was next to have been visited but was, unfortunately, undergoing repairs; the members were, however, by the courtesy of the Conservateur supplied with the following short account of it.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE LA SORBONNE,

The Bibliothèque de l'Université is more generally known among the public as the "Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne," from the name of the edifice where it is located, together with several of the most important educational institutions in Paris. It is under the Government; but, unlike the National Library, Arsenal, Mazarine, or Sainte Geneviève, it is not devised expressly for the use of the public; its main object is to serve the purpose of study and of helping the professors and their pupils, and it is, therefore, under the con-

trol of the higher education branch (*Direction de l'Enseignement supérieur*) at the Ministry of Public Instruction. Libraries with a similar object, to which only professors and students have access, exist in several provincial cities of France; they are known as "*Bibliothèques Universitaires*". Its staff consists of one *Conservateur* (*M. de Chantepie du Désert*), two *Conservateurs-Adjoint*s, two *Bibliothécaires*, two *sous-Bibliothécaires*, five attendants. It is open on week days from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 7 to 10 p.m., and closed during school vacations. In August (examination period) it is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., including Sundays. Government allowances—Salaries, 28,400 fr. (£1136); purchases and binding, 28,350 fr. (£1133 10s.); other expenses, 4850 fr. (£194). It has author and class catalogues, the books being arranged according to subject-classes. Number of volumes, over 180,000; readers in 1891, about 29,000; borrowers in 1891, about 8000; books read, about 65,000; books lent out, about 14,000. The readers are chiefly professors and pupils of the *Faculté des Lettres*, *Faculté des Sciences*, and the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes*, i.e., higher schools of literature, philosophy, philology, history, natural and mathematical sciences excluding law and medicine, for which there are other special libraries in Paris.

At five o'clock the Association was received at the Hotel de Ville by Mons. Boll, vice-president of the Municipal Council of Paris, on behalf of the Prefet of the Seine, who offered a warm welcome, to which the Secretary replied in suitable terms.

FOURTH DAY.

On Thursday morning the official business of the annual meeting was proceeded with. It was announced that as the balance-sheet was not printed, its consideration would have to be held over for a special meeting in London.

On the discussion of the question of the appointment of a paid assistant secretary being resumed, Mr. Barrett (Glasgow) proposed that the matter should be postponed until the members were in possession of the accounts, so that they might know how they stood, and that until the question was finally settled the Hon. Secretary should be authorised to incur such expense for assistance as was found necessary. This was seconded and carried unanimously.

The election of officers of council for the ensuing year was proceeded with, and resulted as follows :—

PRESIDENT.

Richard Garnett, LL.D.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

- F. T. Barrett, Librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow.
John Potter Briscoe, Librarian, Public Libraries, Nottingham.
G. Bullen, C.B., LL.D., late Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum.
P. Cowell, Librarian, Public Libraries, Liverpool.
W. Ralph Douthwaite, Librarian, Gray's Inn.
W. Lane Joynt, D.L., Dublin.
J. D. Mullins, Librarian, Public Libraries, Birmingham.
B. F. Stevens, Vice-President, Royal Historical Society.
C. W. Sutton, Librarian, Public Libraries, Manchester.
S. Timmins, Member of the Birmingham Public Libraries Committee.
Charles Welch, Librarian, Guildhall Library, London.
W. H. K. Wright, Librarian, Public Library, Plymouth.

LONDON MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

- J. B. Bailey, Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons.
J. D. Brown, Librarian, Public Library, Clerkenwell.
F. J. Burgoyne, Librarian, Public Libraries, Lambeth.
Cecil T. Davis, Librarian, Public Library, Wandsworth.
Frank Debenham, Chairman of the Marylebone Public Libraries.
Henry W. Fincham, Commissioner of the Clerkenwell Public Library.
Joseph Gilburt, British Library, Cockspur Street.
L. Inkster, Librarian, Public Libraries, Battersea.
Thomas Mason, St. Martin-in-the-Fields Public Library, London.
Professor Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart.
Talbot B. Reed, Hon Secretary, Bibliographical Society.
J. H. Quinn, Librarian, Public Libraries, Chelsea.

COUNTRY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

- W. Archer, Librarian, National Library, Dublin.
Alderman W. H. Bailey, Summerfield, Eccles New Road, Salford.
John Ballinger, Librarian, Public Library, Cardiff.
Alderman W. H. Brittain, Public Library Committee, Sheffield.
George Lamb Campbell, J.P., Public Library Committee, Wigan.
Councillor Cedric Chivers, 39 Gay Street, Bath.
W. Crowther, Librarian, Public Library, Derby.

H. T. Folkard, Librarian, Public Library, Wigan.
 T. W. Hand, Librarian, Public Library, Oldham.
 T. D. A. Jewers, Librarian, Public Library, Portsmouth.
 William Jones, Free Public Library, Cheltenham.
 T. G. Law, Librarian, Signet Library, Edinburgh.
 C. Madeley, Librarian, The Museum, Warrington.
 W. May, Librarian, Public Library, Birkenhead.
 J. J. Ogle, Librarian, Public Library, Bootle.
 Councillor H. Rawson, Public Libraries Committee, Manchester.
 A. W. Robertson, Librarian, Public Library, Aberdeen.
 Councillor Southern, Chairman, Public Libraries' Committee, Manchester.
 S. E. Thompson, Librarian, Public Library, Swansea.
 Butler Wood, Librarian, Free Library, Bradford.

HON. TREASURER.

H. R. Tedder, Athenæum, Pall Mall, S.W.

HON. SECRETARY.

J. Y. W. MacAlister, 20 Hanover Square, W.

AUDITORS.

T. J. Agar, Chartered Accountant, 9 Bucklersbury, E.C.
 G. R. Humphery, Deptford.

This concluded the Business Meeting and the chairman then called upon Mr. Gilburd, of London, to read a paper upon

BOOK REMAINDERS (*Library*, v. 4, p. 324).

Upwards of 50,000 volumes of new novels are annually thrown upon the English remainder market to be sold at any price, whilst in all some 300,000 volumes of all kinds of literature receive this treatment every year. No author is too respectable and dignified, no work too important to come under the hammer, though sometimes the value of remainders very much increases subsequently. Of English translations of the works of the greatest modern French novelists in a year, 20,000 volumes had to be sold as remainders, and 50,000 volumes of Hansard's Debates could find no bidder. The "remainder" existed in olden time, and £200,000 worth stowed away in St. Paul's Cathedral was destroyed by the fire of 1666. Mr. Gilburd strongly denounced the practice of dishing up remainders with new title pages.

Mr. Dent (Aston) proposed that the Association should compile a list of such books as these. He himself had already a black-list of some eighty names, and it would be of advantage if such a compilation were to be published in the *Library*. He said that was one of the ways in which librarians all over the country might do excellent work. They might gather together examples of works issued at different times under different titles, or which had appeared in magazines, and subsequently re-produced. If this list were re-printed in their journal it could not but be very useful. He instanced the case of "The Costermonger," which appeared as "De Profundis" by the same author. There were many examples of this sort of thing.

The next paper was upon

ENGLISH EDUCATIONAL LEGISLATION

by Mr. H. W. Fovargue, town clerk of Eastbourne, and was read by proxy. The writer, in discussing the Consolidation Act which was recently passed by Parliament and becomes law next month, said there were now but three Acts affecting Libraries to refer to, in place of almost twenty. It was impossible to speak too highly of the obligation due to Sir John Lubbock for his assistance and guidance in public library legislation, and he hoped that he would at an early date introduce an amending Act to provide for other matters which urgently demand attention. The writer and Mr. Ogle were annotating the new Act for the benefit of the members; but he might explain that although the penny limit was still retained, balances might be carried from one year's account to another. There were several other changes of more general interest. In the first place two districts may now unite together for one library even if they do not adjoin, and it was now also possible for the use of lending libraries to be extended to persons outside the library district. The anomaly of having to take a poll of the town before the Acts can be adopted ought to be removed, since no poll is required if the authorities propose a recreation ground, technical institute, gymnasium, or even a museum. Among fresh powers to be sought by the Association should be one to make by-laws and to impose penalties for their infringement.

Mr. Wright (Plymouth) referred to a very important amendment introduced into the Act, giving power to lend books to people in the surrounding districts on payment of a small subscription.

Mr. Cowell, speaking of libraries in districts where the industrial interests of the country abounded, Manchester for example, said that students in mechanics, or people interested in mechanical operations, wishing to consult foreign specifications of patents had to go to London for the information. It was, however, the practice to send gratuitously to foreign countries a large number of English specifications, thirteen to America, for example, yet if one wished to consult an American patent this could only be found in London. He mentioned this as a suggestion to the legislative committee to endeavour to obtain reciprocity on the part of foreign countries.

Owing to want of time, several papers were taken as read, including :—"For the Good of the Public," by Thomas Mason ; "The 'New Learning' of the Nineteenth Century," by J. Y. W. MacAlister ; "Notes on the History Book of Production in France," by A. W. Pollard ; "The Club Libraries of London," by H. R. Tedder ; "The Development of School Libraries in England," by W. H. K. Wright ; "Libraries and Music," by E. R. Norris-Matthews ; "The Assessment of Public Libraries," by J. T. Radford ; and several discussions were postponed.

VOTES OF THANKS.

In concluding the business, Mr. Cowell said the duty had fallen upon him, a duty that he discharged with the greatest pleasure and cordiality, to ask them to join with him in giving a hearty vote of thanks to M. Bourgeois, the Minister of Public Instruction, for the opportunity he had afforded them to visit that great city, and for placing the rooms they had used at their disposal, and also for the many facilities which he had been instrumental in affording them in the discharge of the duties which had brought them together. He would also ask for a vote of thanks to M. Delisle, who officially represented the Ministry of Public Instruction, for his support and sympathy, and to his esteemed colleague, M. Thierry-Poux.

Mr. Crowther, in seconding the motion, expressed his sense of the extreme kindness and courtesy of these gentlemen, adding that the meeting in Paris constituted an epoch in the history of the Association. They were, indeed, greatly indebted to M. Delisle and M. Thierry-Poux for the arrangements made beforehand for their reception.

M. Delisle said that this was one of the occasions on which he regretted his inability to express himself in English. He would have

liked to have been enabled to thank them all in their own language, in the name of his colleagues and himself, for the honour they had done them in coming to Paris. He thanked them for the indulgence with which they had met the efforts made to prepare for their reception, and added that he and his colleagues would retain a lively remembrance of the friendly intercourse that this Congress had been the means of bringing about. He trusted the visit would have a salutary influence in the development of libraries great and small, and that the visit would serve as a precedent for another. He hoped by that time to be able to convince them that France was disposed to support the sentiments of her librarians.

Mr. Wright rose to move a vote of thanks to the Marquess of Dufferin, who had attended two meetings, in spite of ill health, and who had shown that he sympathised with, and shared in the movement of his English compatriots. He had given them great assistance, and had lent his influence to facilitate the arrangements for the meeting, and to secure the support of the municipality to make the meeting a success.

Mr. Leighton seconded the motion. He regretted that there was not an official library at the Embassy, and expressed pleasure that Lord Dufferin was disposed to remedy the deficiency.

Mr. Southern said he had learned, during his visit to Paris, more than he expected, in reference to the degree of support given by the Municipality in providing libraries for the people. They had been permitted to visit the museums, etc., and to inspect the evening operations of the lending libraries, and their thanks were due to the librarians who had placed themselves at their disposal to explain all that they had seen. It was difficult to know how to distribute their thanks, but they could not be wrong in giving a large share to the heads of the Municipal Council of Paris. He moved a vote of thanks to MM. Faucou and Philibert.

Mr. MacAlister seconded the motion. He was sure the vote would not be a merely formal affair, but the heartfelt expression of their gratitude for the numerous kindnesses they had received. Their visit to the Hotel de Ville must have opened their eyes to the grandeur and importance of the great city. A celebrated French author, had said that the reason why British subjects made such good colonists, and Frenchmen such indifferent colonists, was that in France one could find everything that could be desired, while in England this was not the case. He used to think this was merely

sarcasm, but after what they had seen they could understand that a good deal of it was true. The appreciation of French art was daily increasing in England, and with the more general study of the French language in England, they were learning to regard Frenchmen as their brothers. The old feelings of mutual distrust and contempt had happily passed away, for interchange of visits and the study of foreign languages was the best way to find out that at heart all men are brothers.

Mr. Barrett regretted that he could not do justice to the duty confided to him, but he could affirm that the Paris visit of the Association had been most enjoyable and instructive. One of the greatest pieces of good fortune was the presence of M. Beljame as their chairman. His command of idiomatic and nervous English had made his comments and observations a pleasure to listen to, especially to those who did not understand French. He proposed a vote of thanks to their President, Prof. Beljame, for the grace, kindness, and courtesy which he had shown in the discharge of his functions.

Alderman Bailey seconded the motion, and said they would always think of their chairman as a pleasing feature of the meeting. They would think of him as a friend who had done his best to make the visit agreeable.

The President, speaking first in French and then in English, thanked them for the way in which the motion had been received. Unequal as he felt to the task, he was glad to have been enabled to take the place of Dr. Garnett, who had been prevented from attending. So far everything had been pretty well in their favour; the cholera had been conciliatory, and the visits to the different libraries, etc., had gone off all right. As their *pro tem.* president he had listened to a number of interesting and instructive papers, and to some not less interesting discussions, and he thought he might fairly state that the meeting had been in every way a great success. But it was not only French libraries and buildings that the members had come there to inspect. It was his countrymen, and he hoped that they had discovered that there was perfect sympathy and unanimity of ideas between them. Though they laboured under the disadvantage of not speaking the same language, they had seen that there must always be a strong bond of sympathy between men who live for the same things, and took an interest in the same objects, and that feeling was the equivalent of knowing one another's language. In illustration of this he recalled that he was some time ago working in the British

Museum Library, and, wanting some information, he was referred to Professor Arber, who readily gave him the information he required, and in return asked him for some information upon some other subjects in which he was interested, and which he was fortunately enabled to give. They talked for some time, and Professor Arber observed, "It is very curious, but I seem to have known you for years". The professor had talked of Addison, while he (the speaker) had mentioned Swift, and these names constituted a sufficient introduction. That was fifteen years ago, and though he had never seen him since he still regarded him as a friend. They were citizens of the republic of letters. A section of the English branch of the republic of letters had paid a visit to the French branch, and he hoped this visit would tempt them to repeat the experiment.

Mr. MacAlister regretted his inability to adequately deal with the subject, in proposing a vote of thanks to MM. Havet and Henessey, the Local Hon. Secretaries. He said that the way in which these gentlemen had worked, in what was certainly a very difficult undertaking, excited the liveliest admiration among those who were cognisant of their labours. Some of them might not have appreciated the difference between the manner of carrying out labour of this kind in this country and in England. One had to begin by explaining why there was any reason for the meeting, what good it would do, and it would have been quite impossible for them to succeed had it not been for the very kind and cordial assistance which they had received from these gentlemen. Whatever else he carried away, the recollection of the friendship of these gentlemen would be a happy souvenir.

Mr. Mason observed that Mr. MacAlister had spoken of their services in arranging matters beforehand, but he himself would like to speak of what they had done since they had reached Paris. It would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of their assistance. He cordially seconded the proposal that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to these two gentlemen.

M. Havet said he wished he had deserved the flattering observations that had been made, and in any case nothing could be more gratifying than the appreciation that had been shown of the efforts he had been privileged to make on their behalf. He should look back to this congress with pleasure, if only on account of the many pleasing acquaintances which it had been the means of enabling him to make

Mr. Ogle proposed a vote of thanks to MM. Hachette for the Guides to Paris which they had generously presented to the members.

M. Fouret, a member of the firm, apologised for not speaking English, and said his only regret was that he could not rival his friend, M. Beljame, in conveying to the Englishmen present his sincere thanks.

Mr. MacAlister said they must not part without a vote of thanks to his friend, Mr. Mason, the retiring Hon. Secretary. He understood that an idea prevailed among some of the members that Mr. Mason and himself could not get on together, but, as a matter of fact, the only quarrel they had had was a friendly one as to which of them should retire. It was only in consideration of the fact that he had begun certain work for the Association that he was in duty bound to finish that he had agreed to remain. As co-secretary with Mr. Mason, he must say that he could never hope to work with any one in better accord.

Mr. Wright, in seconding, said that no one who had not gone through the mill could appreciate the difficulty and the arduous nature of the work to be done in organising a congress of this kind. He cordially seconded the vote of thanks.

Mr. Mason briefly replied. He explained that they had come to the conclusion that the work would be better carried on by one secretary, and he felt that that one ought to be Mr. MacAlister. He wished him every success in his work, and hoped the Society would continue to improve as years went by.

Mr. Doubleday moved a vote of thanks to Mr. MacAlister, seconded by Mr. Ogle, who said he had been in constant communication with him, and had been struck by the promptness with which he replied to one's letters. No one could appreciate more than he did the great amount of work that had fallen upon him in connection with this meeting, the success of which was largely due to his energy and cordiality.

Mr. MacAlister briefly returned thanks.

At the close of the morning's business the members adjourned for luncheon, after which they were received at the Bibliothèque Nationale by M. Delisle, who was supported by M. Charmes, director and secretary of the Department of Public Instruction, and M. Passier, chief of the Bureau of French Libraries. The

members of the staff present also were—MM. Thierry-Poux, Deprez, Julien Havet, Babelon, Barringer, Marcel, Pillon-Dufresne, Schalck, and Mouton. After the visit to the Library, the members were hospitably entertained by Mons. and Madame Delisle, who received the lady members of the Association in a charming manner.

The various parts of the great Library were visited, including the galleries and store rooms of books, manuscripts, maps, prints, coins, medals, etc., etc.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE.

The National Library, called before the French Revolution "La Bibliothèque du Roi," and afterwards "La Bibliothèque Nationale," owes its origin to a collection of books which were possessed by the French kings for their own use; although no date can be assigned for its foundation, the first large collection was made by Charles V., who placed them in a tower of the Louvre, and appointed a librarian to keep them; but his successors let them be either stolen or sold, a great number being bought in 1425 by the Duke of Bedford. From 1483 to 1547 a great effort was made to increase the number of volumes, and François I. established a library at the royal palace at Fontainebleau. Charles IX. removed it to Paris, in 1666 Colbert established it at his house in Rue Vivienne, and in the eighteenth century it was removed to where it is now, the palace of Mazarin.

The increase during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was due to great purchases and gifts, printed volumes from printers, and the confiscation of property of suppressed convents, which added very many manuscripts and printed volumes. The library now derives its increase from the following sources: (1) Free copies delivered, according to law, by printers, engravers, etc.; (2) purchases by means of yearly government allowances. It is divided into four departments, viz.:—

- (1) Department of printed books and maps.
- (2) „ manuscripts and charters.
- (3) „ medals, gems, etc.
- (4) „ prints and engravings.

The staff consists of one *Administrateur général*, one *Secrétaire-Trésorier*, four *Conservateurs*, six *Conservateurs-adjoints*, about fifty *Bibliothécaires*, *Sous-Bibliothécaires*, *Stagiaires*, *Commis*, and *Hommes de Service*, whose salaries range from £44 to £600 per annum.

The Département des Imprimés, the most important of all the departments, has two reading rooms. The Salle Publique, which is open to all above 16 years of age, and the Salle de Travail, by which readers are only admitted by ticket obtained from the Administrateur général. Both rooms are opened from 9 till dusk in the winter and till 6 in the summer. The number of books, if duplicates, unbound copies and magazines were taken into account, would be over three millions, which are divided into the following classes: Theology, jurisprudence, history and geography, science and arts, and letters. Books are lent only to persons having special authorisation, and in all cases is limited to duplicates or reprints. The number of books added to this department in 1890 was :—

French books from the Dépôt legal	27,823
Books (chiefly foreign) purchased	4415
French and foreign books received as gifts	3595
	<hr/>
Total	35,833

The number of books sewn or bound, in the same year, was 26,189, and the yearly allowances in this department are :—

For purchases	£3200
For bindings	1000
	<hr/>
Total	£4200

The Section Géographique is a part of the department of printed books, and among its treasures is an interesting collection of old maps of America. It has a reading room open from 10 till 4.

The Département des Manuscrits, Chartes et Diplômes which has also a reading room, has some 56,000 very valuable manuscripts in the French, Latin, Greek, Arabic, Sanskrit, Turkish, and other languages, besides extensive collections of charters, records, etc.

The Départements des Médailles et Estampes contain the collections of the French kings of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, and a collection of ancient coins, presented in 1862 by the Duc de Luynes.

The yearly allowances for the whole library are :—

Salaries	£17,440
Cataloguing expenses	3200
Other expenses (including purchases, bindings, furniture)	10,880
Total	£31,520

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner was held at the Hôtel Central de la Bourse du Commerce, in the Rue du Louvre, on Thursday evening, under the presidency of M. Beljame. Among the guests were MM. Thierry-Poux, Lucien Faucou, Templier, Havet, Hennessey, Chatrousse, Dubief, Schalck, Mouton, Delalain, Boll and Vorbe, and Mr. Rennell Rodd representing the British Ambassador. Mr. Rennell Rodd proposed the toast of the President of the French Republic, M. Carnot, to which M. Beljame responded by proposing the health of Her Majesty the Queen of England. M. Templier proposed French and English Librarians. The function was an undoubted success.

THE VISIT TO CHANTILLY.

The concluding and perhaps most interesting function of all was the visit to the Château of Chantilly, the seat of the Duc d'Aumale, by the kind invitation of the duke.

The party consisted of about seventy members and some French friends, including:—MM. Beljame, Chatrousse, Delalain, Faucou, Noblet, Mazerolle, and Paoletti. The party arrived at Chantilly at two o'clock, and walked to the Château, where they were met by the prince's private secretary, the Viscount de Chazelles, and M. Picot, who made them very welcome. The party visited the picture galleries, including the great hall of masterpieces; they had inspected the enamelled jewels, the miniatures of the portraits of the Condé family, and were visiting the oratory, when the prince was announced. He was affable, smiling, and homely, bidding welcome to his "confrères," for, as he said, they were, like himself, lovers of books, and then offered to show them the library. Leaning on the arm of Mr. MacAlister, he walked with them through the rooms, his strongly built frame and his soldier-like face showing a fine healthy old age.

The visitors entered the library—the chief aim of the journey ; but books do not like a crowd, and except by the favoured few in front the only thing seen was the symmetrical lines of cases. There are there some 12,000 volumes, for the most part very rare. The Englishmen noticed *de visu et manu* that the prince was surrounded by all the comfort necessary to read and write without fatigue. They were struck by the appurtenances of the writing desk on which the famous Academician works. It was a large table, quite plain, without any of those properties shown in the photographs of *littérateurs* at home. A calendar, a note block, the catalogue of the next Munich sale, a paper knife representing Napoleon I., very highly prized by the prince, and, what he likes better, perhaps, his briar pipe, not ducal, not academical, but good and faithful. All day busy with worldly duties, the Academy or scientific meetings, it is principally at night that the prince works, and often very late. Candle in hand, he finds the books he wants, puts them on a little cart, which he rolls close by his armchair, where he works at his “History of the Condés”. After this task is done he intends writing out his catalogues, a work to last about ten years ! He is assisted in that task by a young but very learned librarian, M. Maçon, who has grown in years and in knowledge under the very eyes of the prince. Corneille’s bibliographer, M. Emile Picot, whose advice is good in bookish matters, is another assistant, who looks in a friendly manner after the library. This is methodically classified ; one part in the prince’s private study, the other part, more extensive and richer, occupies the room formerly used as a theatre. It includes modern books, which the prince is far from despising. By the side of his table were to be seen several new publications, essays on Mirabeau and Choiseul, the *mémoires* of Talleyrand, of General Jomini, and, in the most conspicuous place, the “Chasse au Nèpaul,” by the Duc d’Orleans.

THE MUSÉE CONDÉ.

The transformation which has taken place at Chantilly since the gift, is remarkable. The Duc d’Aumale feigns to be no more at home. He is in the museum of his colleagues, of which he is the earnest curator, enlarging the collection with his own money. He has reduced the number of the living rooms, suppressed the theatre, disaffected the outbuildings, modified everything on account of the new use of the castle. It is no more the Duc d’Aumale’s collection,

but the Musée Condé. The monogram of the Museum, "M. C.," separated by a *fleur-de-lys*, is printed everywhere. The Duc d'Aumale wishes to have everything in readiness, and a perfect transformation, so that for the next fifty years the Institute may economise the income which was given for maintenance. There is in this noble gift a truly fine example of abnegation and generosity. This prince of an ancient royal line transforming his ancestors' palace into a museum of *souvenirs*! Our symbolists could find in this enough to exercise their imagination.

Towards four o'clock, after a perfect luncheon, the members took leave of the hospitable Academician. M. Beljame and Mr. MacAlister expressed to the Prince the gratitude of the Library Association for such a hearty, as well as princely welcome. The Duc d'Aumale smilingly replied that he was sorry to part with his visitors, but the train was waiting and the time had come to depart. He shook the hands outstretched to him, and, homely to the end, finished by giving the advice, good to travelling Englishmen, not to forget their umbrellas. And so closed perhaps the most eventful of the fifteen Congresses of the Library Association.

*REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF
THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM—HELD IN
MARISCHAL COLLEGE, ABERDEEN, ON
SEPTEMBER THE 5th, 6th, AND 7th, 1893.*

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Held in Marischal College, Aberdeen, on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of September, 1893.

THE Aberdeen meeting must be pronounced a decided success, whether viewed from the practical or social standpoint. Probably more discussions took place here than at any previous meeting, while the generous hospitality extended to members will always be cordially remembered. The Town Council, University and Public Library authorities, Lord Provost Stewart, Sir William Cunliffe Brooks and the Marquis and Marchioness of Huntly, all vied with each other in kind attentions to the visitors. To most of those who visited Aberdeen for the first time and were persuaded that besides granite and haddocks it had little to boast about, the sight of the splendid granite city with its lovely beach and picturesque environs must have come as a pleasant surprise. And not as regards the natural features alone would surprise be felt by some, for the number and high character of the literary and scientific institutions must have impressed every one. With its colleges, churches, libraries, municipal government, situation and an unbroken sequence of important historical and literary associations, Aberdeen is second to Edinburgh alone among Scottish cities in its interest to those, who, like librarians, revel in antiquarian and bibliographical lore. The whole of the local arrangements were superintended by Mr. A. W. Robertson, the popular Librarian of the Public Library, and were carried out in a satisfactory and punctual manner, thereby greatly adding to the comfort and enjoyment of the members who attended. As the whole of the proceedings are detailed in the following pages, it only remains to add that every session of the meeting was well attended by members, and that more ladies were present than at any other meeting of the Association save that held last year in Paris.

The following is a list of members who were present :—

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Councillor T. C. Abbott, Manchester; Thomas Aldred, Barrow-in-Furness Public Library; J. Maitland Anderson, University Library,

St. Andrews; Alderman W. H. and Mrs. Bailey, Manchester; John Ballinger, Free Library, Cardiff; Francis Thornton Barrett, Mitchell Library, Glasgow; George Bell, Islington, London; William Beveridge, Albert Institute, Dundee; Alfred J. Birch, G. W. R. Mechanics' Institute, New Swindon; Charles Christopher and Mrs. Blore, London; Henry Bond, Kendal Public Library; Mrs. Booth, Anderson Library, Woodside, Aberdeen; Alderman Isaac Bowes, Chairman, Museum and Libraries Committee, Salford; J. Potter Briscoe, Public Libraries, Nottingham; James D. Brown, Public Library, Clerkenwell, London; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brown, Wigan; J. D. Buckland, Public Library, Stockport; H. W. Bull, Public Library, Christchurch, London; Frank J. Burgoyne, Lambeth Libraries, London; Henry Burns, Public Library, Fulham; Albert Butcher, Welling, Kent; Councillor Robert and Mrs. Cameron, Sunderland; R. C. Chapman, Public Libraries, Croydon; Cedric Chivers, Bath; J. T. Clark, Advocates' Library, Edinburgh; Matthew Comerford, Free Library, Dundalk; A. Cotgreave, Public Libraries, West Ham; Provost Craig-Brown, Selkirk; William and Mrs. Crowther, Public Library, Derby; Cecil T. Davis, Public Library, Wandsworth, London; Charles Day, London; E. C. F. Day, London; R. K. Dent, Public Library, Aston Manor; W. E. Doubleday, Free Library, Marylebone, London; W. R. Douthwaite, Gray's Inn Library, London; G. H. Elliott, Free Public Library, Belfast; Prof. John Ferguson, Glasgow; Henry Walter Fincham, London; Henry Tennyson Folkard, Public Library, Wigan; Thomas Formby, Liverpool Free Library; Kate Anderson Forsyth, Public Library, Edinburgh; H. W. Fovargue, Town Clerk, Eastbourne; T. W. Fraser, Public Library, Sunderland; Arthur H. Furnish, Public Library, York; Dr. Richard and Mrs. Garnett, British Museum; Charles Goodyear, Lancashire College, Manchester; Thomas W. Hand, Free Public Library, Oldham; George Harper, Public Library, Edinburgh; G. F. Hilcken, Bethnal Green Free Library, London; B. Rowland Hill, The Edward Pease Public Library, Darlington; Charles Hindley, London; Oswald Tatton Hopwood, Public Library, Southampton; James Hornby, Wigan; Baker Hudson, Public Library, Middlesbrough; Thomas Hurst, Public Library, Sheffield; William Hutton, Stirling's and Glasgow Public Library; Lawrence Inkster, Battersea Public Library, London; Miss M. S. R. James, People's Palace, Mile End, London; Tweed D. A. Jewers, Public Library, Portsmouth; Octavius Johnson, University Library, Cambridge; William Jones, Public Library, Cheltenham; W. Lane Joynt, Dublin; Emanuel Judson, Free Library, Bradford; John William Knapman, Pharmaceutical Society, London; Thomas Kyd, Aberdeen; Alfred Lancaster, Free Public Library, St. Helens; T. G. Law, Signet Library, Edinburgh; William Lindsay, Aberdeen; J. Y. W. MacAlister, London; John McClure, Wigan; James J. Mack, Bootle; John Mac-

Lauchlan, Public Library, Dundee; Charles Madeley, The Museum, Warrington; Samuel and Mrs. Martin, Public Library, Hammersmith; Thomas Mason, St. Martin's Library, London; E. R. Norris Mathews, Public Libraries, Bristol; William May, Birkenhead Public Library; Alfred Milner, Subscription Library, Hull; John Minto, Public Library, Aberdeen; Hew Morrison, Public Library, Edinburgh; Miss Jane Morrison, Stirling's and Glasgow Public Libraries, Glasgow; Councillor Arnold Muir-Wilson, Sheffield; Ben H. Mullen, Free Library and Museum, Salford; Lt.-Col. J. T. Nugent, Dublin; John J. Ogle, Bootle Free Library; Frank Pacy, St. George's, Hanover Square, Public Libraries, London; Miss M. Petherbridge, People's Palace, Mile End, London; H. E. Poole, Public Library, Westminster; James T. Presley, Cheltenham Library; J. Henry Quinn, Chelsea Public Libraries, London; John T. Radford, Mechanics' Institute, Nottingham; Councillor Harry Rawson, Manchester; A. W. Robertson, Public Library, Aberdeen; Charles Sayle, Cambridge; Charles E. Scarse, Birmingham Library; George T. Shaw, Athenæum, Liverpool; David Sime, Public Library, Edinburgh; William and Mrs. Simpson, Baillie's Institution, Glasgow; Alphæus Smith, London; George Smith, The Library, University College, London; John Smith, Leyland Free Library, Hindley; Samuel Smith, Public Library, Worcester; Councillor James Wilson Southern, Manchester; Russell Spokes, London; J. H. and Miss Stone, Birmingham; Charles W. Sutton, Manchester Public Libraries; H. R. Tedder, Athenæum Club, London; Eliza Townley, Wigan; Ellen Waddington, Wigan; James K. Waite, Public Library, Bolton; D. McBurnie Watson, Hawick; J. Reed Welch, Public Library, Clapham, London; M. H. Wilde, London; Butler Wood, Free Library, Bradford; W. H. K. and Mrs. Wright, Plymouth Public Library; James Yates, Public Librarian, Leeds.

The names of local gentlemen interested in the work of the Association who attended the meetings are given incidentally in the record of proceedings.

PROGRAMME OF PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS.

FIRST DAY.

TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER.

The President's Address.

[Discussion, p. 9.

Library, v. 5, p. 241.

The Public Libraries of Aberdeen; by A. W. Robertson, Librarian of the Aberdeen Public Library.

[Discussion, p. 10.

Library, v. 6, p. 1.

On the Classification of Books in the Natural Sciences; by Professor Trail, F.R.S., Aberdeen University.

[Discussion, pp. 45-50.

Library, v. 6, p. 13.

On the "Statistical Accounts of Scotland"; by J. T. Clark, keeper of the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh. [Discussion, p. 12.

Library, v. 6, p. 130.

Aberdeen, its Literature, Bookmaking, and Book Circulating; by George Walker, Convener of the Book Sub-Committee of the Aberdeen Public Library.

Library, v. 6, pp. 238, 266.

"A Great Catalogue;" by F. T. Barrett, Librarian of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow. [Discussion, p. 15.

Library, v. 6, p. 69.

Report on Librarianship as a Profession for Women in America; by Miss James, Librarian of the People's Palace. [Discussion, pp. 50-52.

Library, v. 5, p. 270.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER.

NOTE on some Novel Features in the Ventilating and Warming of the Aberdeen Public Library; by A. W. Robertson, Librarian of the Aberdeen Public Library. [Discussion, pp. 28-30.

Library, v. 6, p. 95.

A discussion on the "Blackening-out" of Betting News; will be opened by R. K. Dent, Librarian of the Aston Public Library.

Library, v. 6, p. 127. [Discussion, pp. 15-24.

A New Method of Arranging a Lending Library; by Thomas Mason, Librarian of St. Martin-in-the Fields Public Library.

Library, v. 6, p. 263. [Discussion, pp. 24-28.

Some Practical Difficulties in the Work of a Public Librarian; by F. J. Burgoyne, Librarian of the Lambeth Public Libraries.

[Discussion, pp. 30-34.

The French Clandestine Press in Holland; by Robert Harrison, late Librarian of the London Library. [Taken as read.

Library, v. 5, p. 309.

A Proposal for the Establishment of District Public Libraries on an Economical Basis; by J. J. Ogle, Librarian of the Bootle Public Library. [Discussion, p. 34.

Library, v. 6, p. 42.

The Village Libraries of Yorkshire; by Butler Wood, Librarian of the Bradford Public Library. [Discussion, pp. 34-38.

Library, v. 6, p. 37.

How to Keep Down the Issues of Fiction—A Note; by J. Y. W. MacAlister, Librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, Hon. Sec. of the Association. [Discussion, pp. 38-42.

Library, v. 6, p. 236.

THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER.

- The Taxation of Public Libraries; by J. Y. W. MacAlister, Librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, Hon. Sec. of the Association. [Discussion, pp. 53-60.]
- A Discussion on Charging Systems in Lending Libraries; will be opened by Mr. Charles Madeley, Librarian of the Warrington Public Library. [Discussion, pp. 60-62.]
- Titles: or, Traps for the Unwary; by R. K. Dent, Librarian of the Aston Public Library. [Taken as read.]
- The Place of Libraries in Relation to Elementary, Secondary, and Higher Education; by W. E. A. Axon. [Taken as read.]
- Library*, v. 5, p. 265.
- The Vatican Library; by Charles Sayle. [Taken as read.]
- Library*, v. 6, pp. 327, 371.
- On the Advantage of Occasional Exhibitions of the more Rare and Valuable Books in Public Libraries; by A. Lancaster, Librarian of the St. Helen's Public Library. [Printed: taken as read.]
- Library*, v. 6, p. 19.
- On the Exhibition of Facsimiles of Rare Books in Public Libraries; by A. W. Pollard, of the British Museum. [Taken as read.]
- Library*, v. 5, p. 260.
- A Century Ago: Some Borrowers and the Books they Borrowed; by E. R. Norris Mathews, Librarian of the Bristol Public Libraries.
- Library*, v. 5, p. 323.
- In the Lending Library; by Joseph Gilburt, Librarian, British Library, Charing Cross. [Taken as read.]
- Library*, v. 6, p. 74.

FIRST DAY.

TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 1893.

The meeting was held in the Upper Hall of Marischal College, and at ten o'clock Lord Provost Stewart of Aberdeen took the chair. He was accompanied on the platform by Dr. Richard Garnett, Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum, President of the Association, and Mrs. Garnett; the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Stuart Knill; Principal Sir William Geddes of Aberdeen University; Professors Trail, Kennedy, and Dove Wilson of the University; Sir William Henderson; Dr. Angus Fraser; Principal Brown of the Free Church College, Aberdeen; the Hon. and Hon. Local Secretaries of the Association, and various members of the Municipality of Aberdeen and of the Library Association.

Lord Provost STEWART said—My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been welcoming Congresses to Aberdeen very nearly daily for the last seven days, but this is the first

time I have had the pleasure of welcoming ladies amongst the number, and I am sure it adds to the pleasure of the meeting, for we Aberdonians pride ourselves on the good looks of our own share of the fair sex. We are indeed delighted to see the ladies come amongst us. I need hardly say that on behalf of myself, the Magistrates, Town Council and inhabitants of Aberdeen, we are delighted to see you and give you a most hearty welcome to the Granite City. But I think the best welcome of all, to every traveller wherever he is, is God's sunshine, which you have to-day in full perfection. I trust you will be favoured with a continuance of fine weather during the next few days, and notwithstanding that you have got a good deal of food for the mind on your programme you will also enjoy a little physical relaxation as well, for I daresay librarians have very hard work in musty places. Here in Aberdeen we pride ourselves on having a good many very good Libraries, especially the two public Libraries, one belonging to the University, the other the Free Public Library. Through the kindness of some citizens, and also—I think it is fair to say—through the kindness of an American citizen, Mr. Carnegie, Aberdeen has been provided with a very good building indeed; and we are not ashamed, but rather proud of it. If any of you find any defects in it, I am sure my friend Mr. Robertson is the first man to take a hint from you, but, on the whole, I am inclined to think you may get a few hints from him. I am very glad to tell you that if there is anything that would add force to the welcome which I have already expressed, it is that I have got my friend the Lord Mayor of London, along with me. He is just going to catch the train for the south, and will not be able to stay with you long. I would again repeat that we are delighted to see you all, and hope you will enjoy yourselves. Perhaps the Lord Mayor of London may say a few words.

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON—My Lord Provost, President, Ladies and Gentlemen, it would have given me very great pleasure indeed to have in any way assisted at your congress, but time and train tarry for no man, and I am obliged to leave. We, in the City of London, pride ourselves also in our Library, and I had hoped to meet our Librarian Mr. Welch here, but he may yet turn up before the end of your proceedings. At any rate I wish you very great success in your deliberations, and had time permitted I should have been glad to have said more. I thank you very much for your kind reception.

THE LORD PROVOST—I now beg to move that the President, Dr. Garnett, take the chair, and I am sure the Lord Mayor of London cordially seconds that.

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON—With very great pleasure.

THE PRESIDENT on taking the chair, was greeted with loud and prolonged cheers. He said—

On taking the chair, my first duty is to express the most cordial thanks of the Association to the Lord Provost for the kind

observations he has made, and to the Municipality, and the Citizens of Aberdeen for the extreme kindness and hospitality of their reception.

Mr. MACALISTER, the Hon. Secretary, on the call of the President, read the Agenda, and thereupon proposed for immediate election persons nominated for membership subsequent to the June monthly meeting. The proposal was carried by acclamation.

Mr. MacAlister then suggested that the reports of the Council and the Treasurers' Accounts be held over till the business meeting. Agreed.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

(See *Library*, Vol. V., p. 241.)

Sir WILLIAM GEDDES, Principal of Aberdeen University—Since I entered this meeting I have been asked to perform the pleasant duty of proposing a vote of thanks to your President for the excellent, interesting, and erudite address to which you have just now listened. I regret that this duty has not fallen to some one who has in recent years made himself more conversant with the subject of Libraries and Librarians, and to one who has had the benefit of hearing the whole strain of the argument of our learned President. I had to leave the Hall for a short period in order to intermit that noise which was going on outside and which was interfering with our internal deliberations. I was therefore unable to follow all of the important points, but I gather enough to see that we have in Dr. Garnett not only one who is worthy to preside over the Library Association, but one who is able to guide the Association in the most formidable tasks that lie before them in the future. I think it a great advantage that you should have at your head at this present time a gentleman of so great experience, who has devoted his lifetime to bibliography, and who, in the capital of the British nation, is in a position to command the greatest resources and facilities for the accomplishment of the tasks that are before you. I do not know that I can refer to these tasks more generally than to say that we look forward with great interest to the development of those two subjects that he has brought before us; that *desideratum* which has been "sought carefully with tears" by Librarian after Librarian, namely, a perfect Subject-Catalogue. I am glad to think that in the sketch which he has given us he holds out the prospect of our being able to see that. I am sure you are all delighted with the prospect, though it is a distant one, of what he called a Universal-Catalogue which should be Cosmopolitan and embrace the whole civilised world, including the literature, not of the ancient world only, but of modern Europe, and, yea, of the Mahommedan period, yea, perhaps of China as well. This is an enterprise which requires a Hercules to conceive, and even a greater Hercules to accomplish. I am happy to think, however, that in the band of Librarians now assembled in this Hall the problem is being discussed, and will ultimately receive a solution, and I am

delighted to think that in the series of meetings which you have held as an Association, there will be none more important than that which is now being held in the Granite City. I have to propose in the name of the Association a hearty vote of thanks to the President for his admirable address.

Professor DOVE WILSON—I have been asked to second the motion which has been so well spoken to by the learned Principal. Like him, I am not one of the regular members of the Association, but perhaps there is something fitting in this motion coming from persons like the Principal and myself. I was greatly struck with the admirably clear way in which the President touched upon the various topics of interest connected with libraries. I was greatly impressed by the high ideal that he took of the functions which libraries are calculated to fulfil, and I was touched not the least by the high ideal he has of what Librarians ought to be. Depend upon it, ladies and gentlemen, that Scotch saying has a good deal of truth in it that says: "We ought to pray to have a good conceit of ourselves," and the first thing to induce the public to take a higher idea of Librarians is that the Librarians themselves should as a body, and as individuals, have that high ideal in their own minds. We know that the greater number of Librarians do possess it already, but we do now and then find Librarians who look upon outsiders like myself as troublesome creatures. We do find it more or less, but very seldom. I shall not detain you longer, but simply second with pleasure the motion that has been submitted.

The motion was passed unanimously.

THE PRESIDENT—I beg to return my very earnest thanks and sincere expression of my gratification for the observations of the speakers and your resolution. Our best course would now be to proceed with the business.

Mr. MACALISTER—Before proceeding with the first paper, I have been requested by the Council to ask members to refrain from proposing and seconding votes of thanks for each individual paper. Those who wish to discharge the duty will have an opportunity of doing so later on *en bloc*. Let no one, however, understand that discussion is not wanted—we want the fullest possible discussion, but no votes of thanks.

THE PRESIDENT—I have pleasure in calling on Mr. Robertson to read his paper:—

THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF ABERDEEN.

Professor TRAIL, Aberdeen—Mr. Robertson has given so good an account of the Libraries in Aberdeen, that I do not feel justified in taking up your time by saying very much in addition to what he has said. Of course there are many smaller points which might be dealt with, but I would just say a few words by way of supplementing one part of Mr. Robertson's paper, on the University Library, inasmuch as I, at the present time, hold the position of Curator of the

University Library, and have been much interested in the Library movement, both before I held that position and still more now that I do hold it. Mr. Robertson has had some experience of University Libraries himself before he obtained the position which he now holds so worthily, and in which he has done so much for the service of the community, so that he is specially well qualified to speak on the University Library also. As to the management of the University Library, I am afraid that the records of the past quite bear out what Mr. Robertson has told us about the want of interest and neglect which the Library experienced at the hands of those who ought to have been its supporters. I think I may now say with equal truth that throughout the University—in the Committee to whose charge the Library is now committed, and in the whole Senatus—there is a strong desire to make the Library what it ought to be, and to make it available not only to the limited public for whom it is specially intended, but to every one who really wishes to have access to it. Our aim of course is to provide works of special interest, and we wished to make the Library a public institution, not merely for Aberdeen students but for all students whom we can possibly benefit. Then as to our difficulties, I would say a few words. The fact is that the want of money has been the great difficulty here as it has been in so many other Libraries. That want has made it necessary that the official appointed to take charge of it should also hold other offices in the University, *viz.*: Registrar, Secretary of the University Court, Clerk of the General Council, and various other offices. At first these offices were compatible with the duties of Librarian, and it was possible to give attention to the Library, but gradually the other offices have encroached upon the time that should be given to the duties of Librarian, and it has been absolutely impossible for the Librarian to attend to the Library, his whole time being taken up, and the work of the Library has, therefore, practically devolved on his assistants. Every one knows that that is not a healthy state of things. But we are at present in a state of transition in the University, and the Library is also in a transition state; and I must ask you to judge it not by what it is and has been, but by what we hope in the course of a year or two it will become. There will now be a Librarian from this time onwards, whose whole duty it will be to attend to the Library and carry out the wider regulations which we have drawn up in the course of the past two years, and I hope this will put it on a thoroughly sound basis. I may say as regards the Librarian that we all recognise that position as being one of the most important in the University; in fact, that the Librarian's duties, when well done, hold a most important place in the educational influences that are brought to bear upon our students. We wish throughout that our Librarian should feel himself regarded as he ought to be, as a man who holds a position not inferior to that of any of us, and I trust that is the feeling which will spread throughout the country. As to the size of our Library, I may say I had

occasion a year or two ago to make a rough census—there is no census at the present time—in order to calculate for a Subject Catalogue, and I found that the number of separate books—I do not mean volumes—of which there are a much larger quantity,—but works that would require separate titles—approached, if it did not reach, 90,000.

THE PRESIDENT—I have listened to Mr. Robertson's paper with much interest. Such papers as these render very valuable aid to the Association, and wherever they are read, in the various cities which are visited, they call forth interesting and valuable discussion on Libraries, and similar institutions. Should these papers, when the Association has held some more meetings throughout the length and breadth of the land, be collected together they would form an interesting and valuable volume. Reference has been made in the paper to Dr. Ogilvie and his services to the Library in former time; and it may be interesting to the people of Aberdeen to know that there is in the British Museum a copy of Dr. Ogilvie's book on "The Right of Property in Land," which belonged to George Washington, whose autograph is written on the fly-leaf, dated 1782. I will now call on Professor Trail to read his paper:—

THE CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES.

Mr. MACALISTER—It is quite impossible to adequately discuss this paper on the spur of the moment, and I would venture to suggest that it be put in type at once, and distributed amongst the members, and that it be discussed at a later sitting. It is one of those papers which it is absolutely impossible to follow point by point. Further, seeing that it is all but impossible to hear the speakers, owing to the noises that are going on outside, and from the acoustic properties of the building, it has been suggested that subsequent meetings be held in one of the class-rooms.

Professor TRAIL—This room is notorious among us for its bad acoustic properties; and we have unfortunately experienced that for many years. We have a class-room which will accommodate some 200, which can be placed at our disposal at once, and which would be found much more satisfactory.

THE PRESIDENT—As a matter of practical utility it would be well to act on the kind suggestion. Is it agreed? Our future meetings will therefore be held in the class-room suggested. I have now to ask Mr. Clark to read his paper:—

ON THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS OF SCOTLAND.

Mr. T. G. LAW, Signet Library, Edinburgh—Apart from the biographical and literary contents of Mr. Clark's able paper, there is one point on which I desire to touch, because it has a bearing and interest to us, and that is, this great work of rare topographical importance to Scotland, was compiled entirely by the voluntary contributions of a number of men—in other

words, was a capital example of co-operative work. When an account of the country, district by district was required, the men selected were not taken hap-hazard, but very wisely the clergymen of the parish were fixed upon, and if their tastes and means of acquiring the requisite knowledge were not adequate, they had to get some one else to do it for them—possibly the local Dissenting minister. Now I do not know if there is any such work in England, of such vast importance and interest on this co-operative system. As the minister of the place was the proper person to treat of the antiquities of his district, so obviously, I hold that the Librarian in every place is the person best fitted to undertake the charge of compiling bibliographical statistics. We should act upon the plan of Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland and place in the hands of the principal Librarian in each district the collection of statistics. I think, therefore, that this great work of the Statistical Accounts of which Mr. Clark has given us so interesting an account, bears upon the burning question of Co-operative Cataloguing.

THE PRESIDENT—I have now to call on Mr. Geo. Walker, Aberdeen, to read his paper:—

ABERDEEN, ITS LITERATURE, BOOK-MAKING, AND BOOK-CIRCULATING.

Mr. W. LANE JOYNT, Dublin, moved that the reading of the next two papers, set down for to-day be postponed until the following morning. This was agreed to.

LUNCHEON.

The Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council entertained the President and members of the Association to luncheon in the Town and County Hall. Lord Provost Stewart presided, and was supported on the right and left by Dr. and Mrs. Garnett, Sir William Henderson, Sir William Geddes, Baillie Lyon, Baillie Henderson, Mr. Clark, Edinburgh; Mr. George Walker, Aberdeen; Baillie Kemp, Treasurer Bisset, and others. Various toasts were proposed and responded to by the Lord Provost, Dr. Garnett, Alderman Bailey, Mr. Lane Joynt, and Principal Sir William Geddes.

TOUR OF THE CITY.

After luncheon, the members of the Association were taken on an excursion through the city. The route of the drive was by way of Union Street, St. Nicholas Street, and Schoolhill, Skene Street and Carden Place, to Queen's Cross, thence along Albyn Place and Union Street and King Street, to the Brig o' Balgownie. From this point, most of the members walked through the beautiful grounds of Seaton House, along the romantic banks of the river Don, to the ancient cathedral church of St. Machar. The company having examined the interior

of the cathedral, and especially admired the armorial bearings painted on the ceiling, were addressed by Dr. Jamieson on the historical events connected with the building, and attention was drawn to its various architectural and other points. A vote of thanks was tendered to the senior pastor for his kindness. The company then drove to King's College, where they were received by Sir William Geddes and the Professors. Tea was served, and some of the rare and valuable works in the library were laid out and described by the Professors. A printed list of the books and manuscripts exhibited was distributed among the members, so that it is unnecessary to do more than mention the fact that many fine illuminated MSS. were displayed, together with numerous bibliographical rarities, both British and foreign, including specimens of early printing and Japanese books of coloured flowers. The College Chapel—built about 1505, was inspected, and the company drove to Kittybrewster, returning by George Street to the Marischal College. In the evening an executive meeting was held in the Douglas Hotel under the presidency of Alderman Bailey.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1893.

The President took the chair in the Natural History Class-room soon after ten o'clock, and was accompanied on the platform by Lord Provost Stewart and Sir William Geddes.

The President called upon Mr. G. H. Elliott of Belfast to make a statement.

Mr. ELLIOTT, Belfast—A few weeks ago at a meeting of the representatives of the Belfast Library and other local institutions a resolution was unanimously passed inviting the Library Association of the United Kingdom to hold its Annual Conference there in 1894, and at the same time a large and influential committee was formed to make the necessary arrangements. It is now with much pleasure, as one of the Honorary Secretaries of that Committee that I invite you to visit Belfast next year. I am informed by our Honorary Secretary, Mr. MacAlister, that during the last four years, there has been a growing desire amongst the members to visit Belfast. It is unnecessary to descant upon the natural beauties of Belfast, or of the great industries for which it is famed. Should the Association elect to visit the commercial capital of Ireland, they may depend upon receiving a right hearty Ulster welcome.

Mr. F. T. BARRETT—At a meeting of the Council held this morning, Mr. Elliott's proposal was taken into consideration, and I chanced to be in the chair. It falls to me to propose that the Association accept very cordially, and very gratefully the invitation which Mr. Elliott has brought from Belfast. I have much pleasure in moving that on behalf of the Council.

Mr. W. LANE JOYNT seconded.

Councillor H. RAWSON, Manchester—In the absence of my colleague, I may say that we have talked over the matter of our next place of meeting. We would be glad to receive the Association at Manchester in 1894 before we finish the great undertaking of the Ship Canal.

Mr. BARRETT—Before you take the vote allow me to say that at the Council meeting this morning, it was indicated that there were likely to be invitations from Bristol, Sheffield, and from Leeds, so there is no prospect of lacking entertainment for some time to come.

THE PRESIDENT—The only resolution before the meeting is in favour of holding our next annual meeting in Belfast.

Mr. CAMERON, Sunderland—I am a member of the Council of the Museums and Natural History Associations. We meet in Dublin I believe, in July next year. Many of us are members of both Associations. It would be a very great convenience if the Secretaries could arrange the time as follows—say one week for Dublin and the following week for Belfast. It would greatly convenience those on this side of the water.

A vote was then taken on the next place of meeting, when it was unanimously agreed to visit Belfast next year.

THE HON. SECRETARY—I may now announce, as this invitation has been accepted, that the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava has accepted the presidency for 1894.

THE PRESIDENT—This is a very gratifying intimation indeed.

He then called on Mr. F. T. Barrett to read his paper entitled:—

A GREAT CATALOGUE.

THE PRESIDENT asked for remarks on Mr. Barrett's paper, and no one having risen, said:—

This must be a very valuable work of reference, desirable for English Libraries to possess. The city of Baltimore seems to be a specially favoured place for learning. The Johns Hopkins University is the only University that has chairs for certain branches of technical science.

Mr. G. T. SHAW, Liverpool—May I ask the question if this fine catalogue of the Baltimore Library is to be had for the asking?

Mr. BARRETT—I am afraid not. The edition of the first volume was unfortunately a small one. I have no doubt it is in Liverpool, and Edinburgh, and it goes without saying that Dr. Garnett knows the book very well.

THE PRESIDENT—It may be had by exchange I think.

He then called on Mr. R. K. Dent, Librarian of the Aston Public Library to read a paper on the:—

BLACKING OUT OF BETTING NEWS.

THE PRESIDENT—I daresay some gentleman may have some remarks on this interesting and very practical subject.

Mr. THOMAS MASON—In the absence of Mr. MacAlister, who

meant to say something on the other side of this question, I rise with great diffidence to take his place. I am sure we have enjoyed Mr. Dent's very humorous paper, whether we have agreed with him or not. Perhaps very few can enter heartily into this matter. I, even at the centre of London, have no difficulty at all, and never heard anybody speak about the newspapers being monopolised by people desiring to get the latest "tips". No doubt Mr. Dent, coming from Aston, is in the very thick of it. It occurs to me that several of the arguments Mr. Dent used are like the sort of statistics that may be made to prove anything. He says, that we "all deface our books by stamping them". Of course, he omitted to add the obvious addition that we do not make them unreadable. The Librarian who stamped his books so that they could not be used would have the public rising in revolt. I think the argument he humorously referred to as "the thin edge of the wedge"—the argument that you are not to stop there, is a very fair one. I have heard very strong comments on the publication of celebrated trials, and that these things ought not to be printed. They are printed, because the public demands the details of them, and the paper that attempts to put out an issue without any report, say, of a very important, but probably very degrading trial, would very soon find that the reason for its existence would disappear. I do not see why, if Mr. Dent is to black out sporting news, some other person is not to black out reports of divorce cases and murders, and many other things. I think Mr. Dent ought to go over his Library and take the novels of Smart and Whyte-Melville and knock out everything relating to sporting, in case the tender-minded people of Aston may be contaminated, and some be induced to go to a football match. I do not think there is a very great deal to be said against this blacking out, except that one does not like it. On the whole there is as little to be said against it, as there was said by Mr. Dent in its favour. He said absolutely nothing, except that some very superior people did not like to go in while these sporting fellows were in the Library.

Mr. BARRETT—I rise for a moment to suggest to Mr. Dent, before the discussion proceeds further, whether it might not be convenient for him to inform the Association to what extent the blacking out is carried. Mr. Mason has brought this out, and it is of great importance. To "black out" the account of racing and other sport is rather an extreme measure. Mr. Dent might inform us if it would not be sufficient in ridding the room of the pests that go for the "tips" to black out the betting news only, not to interfere with the running or the racing, only the list of "odds".

Mr. J. H. QUINN, Chelsea — I wish to know what material Mr. Dent uses.

Mr. DENT—I black out those portions that lead to the nuisance—the sporting prices, the programmes for the day, the results of races—but not the notices, nor the sketches descriptive of the races.

Mr. BARRETT—Do you black out the results?

Mr. DENT—Yes, inasmuch as that is one of the things waited for. As to the material, after a good deal of experimenting, I found the best to be stencil ink, stencilling out the column as the case may be.

Mr. C. T. DAVIS—Has Mr. Dent a specimen?

Mr. J. BALLINGER—How long does it take?

Mr. W. MAY, of Birkenhead—A betting man requires the sporting papers, because the ordinary papers of the day do not give the information he wants. The question is largely one, after all, of local experience. Possibly Mr. Dent is correct, and “blacking out” is a necessity, still I would insist upon it as a very last resource. I will give you my experience. Some eighteen months ago on the opposite side of our street, a club opened its doors, and we very soon saw that it was a betting club, carried on in such a manner that it could set the authorities at defiance. It seemed likely to prove a nuisance to our Library, as it encouraged betting men to come across from the club to the news-room and read our papers, and we found that there was a tendency on the part of these men to come first thing in the morning and fill our news-room, which was not desirable. But my experience is this, that the newspapers on our stands were not of very great use to them, and they invariably carried their own sporting papers. I set myself the task of clearing these fellows out, and at once directed my attention to those who brought in their sporting papers, and sat down at our tables. We prohibited anybody from using sporting papers in the room and in a very few weeks we were rid of their presence, and at the present time these betting men may come, but we insist upon them not using their papers. I have asked newspaper editors why they publish this kind of news. They say “the people want it”. It is the same with our Saturday evening paper, in the special football edition. They would not issue such things if the public did not require them. I am sure newspaper editors exercise very fair discretion in omitting matter of an objectionable character. There are papers that are not noted as newspapers, but for the sporting intelligence they give. They ought not to possess a place on the slabs of a public news-room. I think the selection of the papers is the best guardian.

Councillor ARNOLD MUIR-WILSON, Sheffield—Coming from the city of Sheffield where the working classes are particularly fond of betting, and the other classes are fond of stockbroking and sharebroking, as a professional solicitor I have found more men becoming bankrupt from sharebroking than from betting or gambling. Some one questioned with regard to our Library, of which I have had an experience of ten years, whether we are not pestered with the same class of people. Mr. Dent seems to know that we take no betting papers, no sporting papers. If you were to “black out” all the sporting news in the Sheffield papers, you would have to black out most of the paper, at least a whole page on some days. I think we have no right to interfere with the news that is in the public press any more than we have to go and “black

out" particular parts of novels. There is a way of dealing with a case of that character, and that I venture to think has been amply shown by the remarks of the last speaker. If it is suggested that by blacking out betting news, you are only dealing with the comfort of others, I venture to think that a few stalwart policeman or a little determination on the part of the Librarian would amply deal with an evil of that kind. "Blacking out" seems to savour of what we hear of in Russia. I for one object to the public press being interfered with in any form whatever, by any foolish corporation. Mr. Dent in answering the question says he does not "black out" descriptions of all the races. For whom does he leave that? Does he leave that for lady readers or for persons who, though interested in description do not care for results? To be consistent you should "black out" the whole lot. I think he blots out the beginning and the end. He leaves the middle part. I have heard of people rushing to see the papers on account of the races. But the working classes take an interest also in the foot races. That is why our Sheffield papers are so full of sporting news, not only dealing with the great races, but with pigeon-shooting matches. I suppose he "blacks" these out ruthlessly, because there is as much betting over them? Mr. Dent has referred to the fact that we deface our books with stamps. I have seen books defaced in our Library by other things besides stamps. These are the erratic remarks of foolish readers. These are the people you want to "black out" of the Library. We have a population of 325,000. We have never known the slightest confusion or difficulty with regard to betting news, and I, for one, as a member of our City Council, would resent any interference with the betting news in our newspapers in the Sheffield Library.

Mr. MATHEWS, Bristol — Representing the large population of Bristol, I am sure if certain measures were carried through, as proposed by Mr. Dent, it would be done at the risk of incurring very great unpopularity. That would be the first unpleasant result. Mr. Dent's experience has been more troublesome than most. From my experience we have had very little trouble with the betting fraternity. Scarcely any crowding has been caused by the betting news in the newspapers.

Mr. W. H. K. WRIGHT, Plymouth — I have not heard one corroborate Mr. Dent's experience. I do not think we should waste a great deal of time over it. It seems to me that the principle is a far-reaching one. If Mr. Dent in his capacity as a Librarian sees fit to black out one portion of a newspaper, because it attracts a certain class of visitors, in other places we want to follow the same course with regard to other classes. I have no doubt a great deal of money passes hands in connection with cycling and football matches. Coming, as I do, from the seaside, where regattas are all the rage, I have no doubt that betting on regattas and cycling and football excites a considerable amount of interest in our population, although it does not cause trouble in our news-rooms. This is a case in which

Aston is peculiarly concerned. I do not think we should waste any more valuable time discussing the matter.

THE PRESIDENT— I do not think the time has been wasted. My own opinion is, that the discussions have been only from one point of view,—the convenience of the Librarian. There is another aspect, which is suggested to me by my own experience. Some time ago there was a discussion in my own parish of St. George's, Bloomsbury, whether an additional rate should be granted to supply funds for building a new Library, seeing that the old Library had to be given up, and it was absolutely necessary to provide a new one. Among the objections raised to this being done was the very plausible one that this Library was greatly abused then by people who read the sporting papers. It never occurred to anybody to black out the sporting news. An appeal was taken and the necessary funds were only secured by a very small majority. It was a very specious and plausible objection that people should pay an additional rate to enable others to read sporting news whether rightly or wrongly. It unfortunately told with the class of people who would have started the Library. The religious and moral class who would have supported were prejudiced, and we were almost afraid we would lose the vote in consequence. As regards the question, I myself agree with Mr. Wright, that every Librarian should resolve for themselves if their interests are promoted by blacking out news. I would of course, do it myself if it was absolutely necessary.

[The discussion was resumed at the afternoon session.]

Mr. OGLE—I felt very much that the tone of the remarks made in the morning, if reported in the press, would lead the outside public to imagine that a great many of our fellow Librarians are more influenced by fears for their popularity than acting on the ground of principle. Some members spoke in such a tone as would lead one to suppose that their real motive was whether blacking out would make the Librarian popular or not. The paper by Mr. Dent was read at the urgent request of the Secretary—at least Mr. Dent very reluctantly came forward to read that paper, and he would be placed in an entirely false position if we let that discussion in the morning go forth to the world as a fair and adequate expression of the feelings of this meeting. Personally, I have not found it necessary to black-out betting news, and I should hesitate before adopting such a course. I think I should try every other means before I tried that. But I have visited Aston, and I have seen the character of the reading-room there, and I can say that it was really transformed into a betting club, and Mr. Dent was justified in using the strongest means in putting an end to the condition of things that existed. I admire the courage of Mr. Dent. Another thing is that the matter came before us in such a way that some might be led to think that Aston was worse than any other place. I believe, as a matter of fact, that the character of Aston readers is higher than the average of those who frequent

the reading-rooms of Public Libraries. Then it was tried to be made a question of moral censorship. It is not a question of moral censorship at all. I think that ought to be given forth to the public emphatically. It is a question of the greatest good of the greatest number. It is a matter of expediency—if desirable let us look at it in that way, and not at it from the point of view of whether it will be popular or not.

Mr. WOOD, Bradford—It seems to me that the whole gist of the matter amounts to this—if a betting man, or a collection of betting men make themselves disagreeable or a nuisance to the rest of the readers in the room I think the Librarian is justified in taking measures to get rid of them. But it is only when these men become a nuisance to the people around that you are justified in taking measures of the kind. In the case of Bradford the evil does not exist, but I should have no hesitation, if the state of things occurred there to call for it, in taking measures to get rid of the nuisance complained of. In Bradford there are plenty of betting men, but there is a certain subscription news-room which these gentleman frequent, and as a result we are rid of their disagreeable presence. I should like to say a word in favour of Mr. Dent, who, I am afraid, received rather scant justice this morning. I think it is the least we can do to give him that justice to which I think he is entitled.

THE CHAIRMAN—The means to be taken seems to be the whole question. What means would you take?

Mr. WOOD—You might do one of two things. You might forbid these gentlemen from entering the place at all. (Cries of "No.") I have been talking to some gentlemen connected with Public Libraries and I am told the thing has been done, and can be done without appearing objectionable to anybody in particular. These men are easily recognised. They simply come and loaf around, looking at certain columns in the papers; that is all they look at. They care no more about books or interesting reading than a bootjack does.

Mr. HUDSON, Middlesbrough—As the representative of one of the Libraries where the blacking out of betting news has been adopted I think it is right to stand up in defence of Mr. Dent so far as I am able. We in Middlesbrough found, the first thing in the morning, that the reading-room was crowded by a class of people who looked simply at this class of news, consulting small note-books, lists and divers papers, all to the exclusion of the ordinary reader who wanted to know the news of the day. This was brought to my notice very many times, and so forcibly in the end that at last I undertook to bring it before the Committee. We had, as might be expected, a fine row. However, I was determined we should do something. The question was, What? After a very great deal of discussion we eventually solved the problem by taking two local newspapers where we had only taken one; blacking out the betting in one, and leaving the other unblacked. We find, as the result, that we have very much less trouble in the work of the reading-room; and, apparently, everybody is

pleased. So far as the London papers are concerned we do not black them. I only wish we did. So far as Middlesbrough is concerned the betting readers of the London papers are decidedly a nuisance yet, and will have to be dealt with at some future time.

THE CHAIRMAN—You find that the general reader who does not care for the betting news takes the paper in which the betting news has been blacked-out?

Mr. HUDSON—Of course if two want the same paper they take either.

Mr. BRISCOE, Nottingham—We have not thought it necessary to adopt this system, but the betting men are a great nuisance. We deal with them, however, by another method. In the neighbouring town of Leicester they have thought it desirable to bring this matter forward. The matter has been brought forward two or three times but it is only in November—(laughter)—that it is talked about, when some of the candidates for municipal honours are pandering to the tastes of the constituency, and they oppose the blotting-out. But it is agreed that in the reading-room at Leicester the most marked change has taken place. Those who frequent the reading-room have been changed from a disorderly mob to a respectable, newspaper reading class of people. Some of our Librarians, I am afraid, prefer popularity by bowing to the public rather than to stand upon principles. But to those weak-kneed brethren I would point out that virtue is its own reward, even in the blacking-out, as at Leicester they have a number of advertisements with which to cover up the betting announcements, and these bring in a fair income—to the amount of about £30. (Laughter.)

Mr. Alderman BAILEY, Salford—It has been said if newspapers give prominence to betting news, that it would be very much more profitable not to take these papers in; but in Manchester it would be a particular disadvantage to us, because the Church might suffer. (Laughter.) Those papers which give most prominence to betting news represent the Established Church,—(“Oh! oh!”)—so that religion might suffer on the one hand, if we were to refrain from taking those papers. It is a most extraordinary thing that this should be, but it is so. I think these betting men should be prevented from coming to news-rooms, in the interests of the young people and the frequenters of our Libraries. To permit the blacklegs of the town to take possession of our news-rooms early in the morning, is really a very improper thing, and a subject worthy of the attention of every Free Library Committee. I do not think we are troubled with them in Salford, because the Library occupies a very nice part of the town. You cannot always detect the betting men. Some of our teetotalers in Salford are betting men—(laughter)—and these cool-headed respectable fellows quietly make a book, and there is nothing in their appearance to show that they are plundering their fellow creatures in this way. Looking at the subject from all sides, I think in the interests of education and morality, this news should be stamped out in the very best possible manner.

Alderman Bowes, Salford—One speaker said that this was not a question of morality. I think it is. While we have the power to reject books which are of an immoral kind, we are perfectly within our rights and duties in suppressing the parts of newspapers which disseminate immorality. The race-course in Salford is doing an immense amount of mischief among the rising population. There are six race meetings every year. About these times there are crowds round the doors of the Free Libraries by nine o'clock every morning. Then there is a rush made for the sporting papers, and so widespread is the immorality that young lads in the warehouse, clerks in the office, engage in betting at the street corners, and then go to the reading-room to get their information, and go and meet those men in the streets and make their bets. I think it is the duty of Free Library Committees to put a stop to it, the same as they put a stop to immoral books.

Mr. TEDDER, London—We owe so much to the press that it does not do for us to fall out with it. A previous speaker said that this was entirely a local question, and could only be really discussed with propriety in strict connection with local circumstances. No general opinion I think is desirable upon a question of this nature. Several speakers went far beyond their text. If we are to blot out betting news, why not blot out other objectionable news in newspapers—leading articles, political speeches, discussions at the Library Association meetings? (Laughter.) I have no particular interest in this point, for I am not a Free Public Librarian, nor even a betting man. I never read the betting news. I can easily understand a position in which it might be highly necessary for statistical purposes, to read a subject of that kind. For instance, supposing I had to travel much in Yorkshire, I would have to get up for the occasion a little sporting information to enable me to carry on a conversation. (Laughter.) As regards my own Library if we had anything to black out, it would be the sermons. (Laughter.)

Councillor RAWSON, Manchester—This is a question which every Library Committee should settle for themselves. Men regard with pride the high character of British journalism, generally not excelled by any, but it is a pity, I think, that respectable newspapers print this betting news. If it was stopped they would lose nothing in the end.

Mr. CROWTHER, Derby—I think the gist of the whole question lies in the efficient way in which a reading-room is conducted. We, in Derby, have as many of these loafers as anybody. We say: "If you do anything that offends other readers out you go". If I cannot put them out myself,—that has not occurred very often—(laughter)—I call in the police. I think that is the end of the whole matter. I do not think we should enter on the moral ground. If any class of readers does anything that militates against the comfort and convenience of others they are breaking one of the most important regulations for the carrying on of the Library, and they must be put out.

Mr. HAND, Oldham—As Mr. Crowther says, we have in the

rules of our institution sufficient power to cure this evil without "blackening out". When a number of drunk men come into the Library we find means of putting them out. When readers come to me complaining of certain people, I deal with them straight away, and you have rules and regulations to fall back upon.

Mr. DENT—I would like to deal with the last speaker first and ask him how he would go up to the man who is using the betting part of the paper? It seems he would go to him in an autocratic way, and say: "Were you using that part of the paper? If so, out you go." The tone of the observations this morning might have led some here to think that this was a local question, and that Aston must be the only sinner in this direction because the observation was made later on, in reference to another matter: "What must *Aston* be like?" To show that other Libraries have to suffer from the same pest, I may mention that the Librarian of a certain Library not ten miles away, who had heard that the "blackening out" was to be commenced on a certain morning at Aston, came over and said he had expected to see a riot, as there would certainly be at his own place if such a plan were attempted. He said there were sixty or seventy betting men in his reading-rooms every morning. I was told that some of the London news-rooms were little better than betting houses. This difficulty must have been felt elsewhere. Indeed, if it were not, I should find a difficulty in accounting for the large sheaf of correspondence on this subject I have received from Librarians all over the kingdom. Such Libraries as Wolverhampton, Leicester and Middlesbrough have adopted the blackening-out system. One of the speakers suggested as an alternative remedy to leave off taking certain papers which give a large amount of their space to the subject. As we have been told that would lead to the exclusion of the papers of one political party altogether. In our own district the paper which is associated with the constitutional party, Church and State, and the rest of it, has about a page and a quarter in the busiest of the racing season to be blacked out. But in a certain Liberal club in which this question was discussed, some one present turned over the pages of the *Daily News* to see what would be the result there, and found that they would have had to "black out" rather more than half a page. In fact, to discontinue taking all newspapers which devote large space to betting news would be to leave many of our reading-stands bare. I may say that we have thought of all sorts of methods. The men who caused the nuisance were not of the quiet betting class which has been spoken of, but men who probably never bought a paper themselves, probably could hardly read or spell out the names of the horses. There was the difficulty. They would lounge about, and being unable to take an interest in anything else in the reading-room, they simply disturbed readers while waiting for more papers with more betting news. We took this step too, in the interests of that large class who use the room the first thing in the morning—those who are out of employment. One of the most painful scenes to a Librarian is the large

number of unemployed who through the morning are busy at the columns of the paper, spelling out the advertisements of situations vacant. That class now use the Aston Library far more than ever they did, because before they were elbowed out of the way by the betting loafers. Another class who had given up using the reading-room—the more respectable and quiet class who did not care to come in contact with the people whom the betting news attracted to the place, have now come back. We have now a much more respectable class of readers, and I can answer for it that in Aston at any rate, the great body of rate-payers are satisfied with the change which has been effected by this means.

Mr. BARRETT—I rise to ask Mr. Dent if he would be so good as to send to Aston for some of these papers showing the 'blacking-out'.

Miss JAMES, People's Palace—When we first started at the People's Palace, we took sporting papers because we did not see that one side of the question should not be represented as well as the other. We found many of the betting class making their "books" in the Library, so we gave up the papers; and after that, with very few exceptions, we have had no difficulty at all. "Blacking out" seems very autocratic, and a distinct confession of weakness. If I see a disturbance over the betting news at newspaper stands, and such persons are incommode others, they are simply told they must "move on". The sheets for advertisements are displayed separately, that is, they are taken and put out on a board outside the library.

Mr. SHAW—Why not have the sporting news outside and let other people have the comfort?

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. J. T. CLARK)—I am sure we are all indebted to Mr. Dent for the opportunity he has given us of discussing this question. I understand you wish no expression of opinion on it. To me it is very interesting, because an entirely new subject. I see the difficulty from the Public Librarian's point of view. We have one gentleman,—an experienced Librarian, saying it is perfectly easy to "spot" these people, and turn them out. Another said, "It is not at all easy to do so," and I suppose there is a certain amount of truth in both statements. The result of the general discussion seems to me that it is very much a question of Library administration. I think if you consider it at all as a question of morality you get outside the proper sphere of the Librarian, and raise the doubt that if you drive these men out of the Public Libraries where they come into contact with better men, you may make them convene in some other place not so public. I am sure the discussion will be of use. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN then called on Mr. Thomas Mason to read his paper:—

A NEW METHOD OF ARRANGING A LENDING LIBRARY.

Mr. WOOD, Bradford—The bookcase which Mr. Mason proposes to fix up in this way if more than six feet high would prevent books at that height from being seen.

Mr MASON—It is not more than seven.

Mr. WOOD—I can only say that the idea is an extremely good one. We hear much about indicators, but if we can get any means which will bring the *books* before the readers, many great drawbacks would be obviated.

Mr. T. W. HAND, Oldham—I have had such a scheme before me for some time. Our system of modern Free Libraries is to keep as much as possible from the public, and to prevent them from knowing the character of the books, and I made the suggestion some time ago, and we seriously tried to consider the advisability of adopting it at Oldham. I can see the difficulty is as regards the space required in carrying this out, and I should like to ask Mr. Mason how he would have the assistants to find the books which the readers would want. A man would have to go to a certain rack and come to the counter and say he wanted a certain number. How would Mr. Mason find that certain book, the title being towards the reader and the fore-edge towards the assistant?

Mr. MASON—That difficulty of course at once occurred; the difficulty of knowing what the book is from the fore-edge, and there are many ways of meeting it. The best thing that occurred to my mind was this. Say that each of these presses, thirty-two inches long is hinged to turn round then the front of the case would be presented, and the assistant would take the required book out and shut the case again.

Mr. J. H. QUINN, Chelsea—I think this is a very good idea. In my own Library, I have endeavoured to meet readers in this way. I had no idea of this when our Library was in course of erection, but I put some cases broadside to the counter with the result that a great many good books are very frequently taken out. I find, also, that I have got a step further in bringing good books under people's notice, by providing a glazed case in which, instead of showing the backs of books to the people, I display the title-pages. Mr. Mason's idea of bringing the whole Library under the notice of the readers would be better still.

Councillor R. CAMERON, Sunderland—The gentleman who has brought this very good idea forward is a Scotsman and that explains a great deal. I rise to protest against the statement as to the relation between Librarians and visitors. There are men who want special information in regard to special subjects. Recently, when seeking some information myself I found in every case that the Librarian was available. One London Librarian gave me several important books. I went to another, near Clapham Common, next I went to Birmingham which is the chief Shakespeare Library and there they gave me all possible information. All Libraries are short of space, and Municipal Councils are always very unwilling to expend money to give us new ones. It seems to me that between the spokes of the wheel in Mr. Mason's diagram a great deal of waste space exists which we cannot afford.

Mr. H. R. TEDDER—I have to congratulate Mr. Mason upon his very well written and telling paper. I wish he would write

papers more often. It would be not only to our edification, but amusement. I have no wish to detract from the originality of Mr. Mason's plan, but I cannot help thinking that he must have made early study of the works of Jeremy Bentham. He had a new idea for a prison. The public were admitted into a star prison, and they inspected the prisoners through the bars; but the prisoners were not handed round like the books, as Mr. Mason suggests. (Laughter.) One practical difficulty occurs to me, which probably has been thought of by Mr. Mason, and that is, like the rows in Vanity Fair, some of those under the new plan will be more frequented than others; particularly the row in which fiction is placed. This will be rather crowded, whereas pure science and speculative philosophy will be perhaps deserted, or frequented only by people who wish to meet other people. I speak now rather as a reader than as a Librarian myself, because in my Library all the shelves are open to readers. I cannot help thinking that the tendency of Free Public Libraries is to give the public as much access as possible to the shelves, and sometime or other, I believe, in Free Libraries the readers—those using the Library—will be admitted to all the shelves throughout, without let or hindrance. A great step has been taken in that way at Cambridge and St. Martin's, London, where the public are allowed to use many of the books in the Reference Library. That is certainly a distinction which we shall reach sometime or other, and the public will be allowed permission to use the books on the shelves. Such a boon is priceless beyond belief. The title gives little idea of the contents, and books sent to the binder by practical Librarians come back with very misleading superscriptions on the back. Unless a man is allowed to handle a book, the title on the back or title-page is of very little use to him. I again wish to thank Mr. Mason for his highly stimulating paper.

Mr. MADELEY, Warrington—As coming from a Library which gave access to the borrowers I would like to say a few words towards damping the opinion so often expressed that such access to the shelves in Lending Libraries would be a great boon to the public. I am perfectly aware the public think it would, but the public does not always know what is good for it. As a rule, in the case of the large majority of borrowers it is of no advantage to them. We are told that titles are misleading, that people cannot judge from the titles; but I do not think the result is any better if they judge by the binding. I find that any book which is at all distinguished from its fellow on the shelves by its binding is apt to be taken by the borrower who is looking about for something nice. A very large proportion of readers in Lending Libraries come for a nice book, they wish recreation; they have no prepossessions as to what character of book they want. I did not find that they were able to choose from the shelves better than from the catalogue. We have now, for many reasons, given up the access to the shelves in the Lending Library, and I do not think our borrowers are at any disadvantage. It is of immense advantage to the

person who knows what he wants to be able to turn over a lot of books, but what a small percentage that is. We want some method of discrimination between the person who comes and says, "Please send Mr. Smith a nice book" or the person who would spend half a day in choosing a book. They are under no disadvantage in choosing from the catalogue. As regards Mr. Mason's proposal, and the manner in which books may be got from the shelves, the method is an expensive one. It has been done at Bradford in the Reference Department. Shelves in that way require very expensive fittings. It occurred to me that the best way would be simply to number the books back and front. I am happy to hear that there are a number of ways in which this may be carried out.

Mr. JOHN BALLINGER, Cardiff—I should not like to commit myself by saying that this scheme would work. I rise to point out that there is no necessity for adopting that circular system, because the same system can be worked out by rearranging the stacks in a parallelogram beyond a long counter, with a great saving of space.

Alderman Bowes, Salford—I would rather support the suggestion of the last speaker, to arrange these cases in a parallelogram instead of in the circular fashion shown in the plan. Speaking mechanically there is an immense amount of waste between each of the arms of the wheel. Most of our Free Libraries are in crowded localities where ground is very dear. An arrangement of that kind would require a large amount of space. That is an important factor in considering a scheme of this kind. I do not see where the Librarian is to get into the inner circle. The width of each arm is about four feet. Taking the space between any two arms in the circle there is only a four feet opening. I think that is scarcely sufficient to get admission into a Free Public Library.

Mr. MASON—In reading the paper, I stated that there were two schemes put before you. I was unable to get the drawing of the second scheme; that is the one in which you go up and down between the cases, and which holds more books. It is not such a pretty scheme. (Laughter.)

Mr. MACLAUCHLAN, Dundee—We are very much indebted to Mr. Mason. I think his plan is an ideal one. We should always strive after the ideal and endeavour to find the means of accomplishment. What made me rise was to say that there has been a little confusion of thought. Mr. Mason only proposed that the backs of the books should be seen. Some say that the reader should have access to the books. If he did, my experience is that it hinders the work in our department. We have one department where the readers are allowed access to the books, and when they come in wanting a book, and take them down from the shelves it takes them about ten minutes longer than if they were served by an assistant.

Councillor SOUTHERN, Manchester—The present discussion is rather a special advantage to me because at the present moment we are just building a Lending Library. It seems

to me that the objection of waste of space is a very strong one. You could get within sixty-two feet by sixty-two feet, a much larger area of shelf space than would be provided by the plan. I also share the feeling of Mr. Madeley that the particular device for securing access on the part of the attendants to the title of the book is one which in practice would not work. I would suggest whether the weight of books on a shelf two feet six inches long, would not inevitably, in a very short time dislocate the hinge.

Mr. MASON—The whole press would wheel out.

Baillie WALKER, Aberdeen—It is a very pretty thing to have a model or drawing like this, and we understand it very clearly. It seems to me to be calculated on an enormous expense. I have been surprised that in the discussion there has been no reference made to the Aberdeen Public Library. There you will see a model in actual operation, taking up the least space, and giving the largest amount of information to the would-be readers. To be sure it does not present the volumes to view, but I really cannot see that an individual judging by backs of books on the outside of a case can very well know what is inside. It does not follow that it is of any great advantage that he should see the volumes. It is of very great importance that he should see the title of the book at home, the title of the book in which he is interested. There you have it in our Aberdeen Library, the catalogue is outside, and you see whether the book is at home. The person who comes merely on chance should be able to know if the book suits him. I am anxious to hear the opinions formed by those individuals who have made the present plan of our Aberdeen Library a study.

THE PRESIDENT—We hope to see the Aberdeen Library. Mr. Mason's scheme has not been actually tried. A little actual experience is of far more importance than any number of plans. I hope Mr. Mason or some other one will complete the scheme, and I trust Mr. Mason will complete his paper by the inclusion of the alternative parallelogram scheme.

THE PRESIDENT then called on Mr. A. W. Robertson to read his

NOTE ON SOME NOVEL FEATURES IN THE VENTILATING AND WARMING OF THE ABERDEEN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Mr. J. D. BUCKLAND, Stockport—I listened to the Paper read by Mr. Robertson with very great interest. It so happens that my friend Mr. Willoughby, of the firm of Messrs. Woodhouse & Willoughby of Manchester, took me over to the Rochdale Technical School to see the ventilation, which is identical with the system described by Mr. Robertson. As to the expense, the reason why theirs is so much cheaper, proportionately, than that of Aberdeen, is that their building is evidently a much larger one than the Library at Aberdeen. The expense of the ventilation was £500 and they require a five-horse-power gas-engine to work the fan.

Mr. BARRETT—Would Mr. Robertson kindly inform us if the ventilation was carried out under Mr. Key?

Mr. ROBERTSON—It was.

Mr. BARRETT—Have you any special arrangements for keeping your air ducts clean? All the passages become so blocked and full of dust, and the incoming current brings the dust along with it into the Library.

Mr. ROBERTSON—With regard to the question Mr. Barrett has asked, after we had the machinery installed, we got a water screen put up. Until that screen was put up we were troubled a good deal with the dust being forced into the building. As soon as this screen was put up very little dust got in. There has been no necessity for cleaning the ducts. Partly as an experiment, I placed about the openings at which the air comes into the building, a coating of cotton wool to test how much dust was forced into the building. After a whole week you could hardly say that the cotton-wool had been there at all, which is a very satisfactory proof that we were getting the air fresh.

Mr. C. T. DAVIS—I do not know if you get fogs in Aberdeen.

Mr. ROBERTSON—We are independent of the weather. I have gone into the reading-room when it was as full as it could hold with 150 people with damp clothes, and with that peculiar smell which always accompanies a large concourse of people, and the observation of myself and others was: "It is really remarkable, how fresh your air is considering the state of the atmosphere outside".

Mr. BARRETT—Have you, Mr. Robertson, perceived any ill effects arising from the moistening of the air through your water screen. I have seen it stated by some one—a ventilating engineer, that air passed through water carries into the room a great deal of damp which is unfavourable and injurious in course of time. I do not know whether your experience will enable you to answer the question.

Mr. ROBERTSON—I cannot say that the fact has come under my notice. In the winter time the air passes over hot water pipes.

Councillor SOUTHERN, Manchester—The air impelled into the room by passing over the coil of heated pipes becomes too dry. I have never heard the objection that it becomes too damp. The damp of the screen is a device which secures that the air when impelled into the room shall be of the same degree of moisture as the air outside.

Mr. MACLAUCHLAN, Dundee—Mr. Robertson might fix an hour for us not only to see the ventilating apparatus, but also to see the indicator. I would advise our friends from England to go and see it.

THE PRESIDENT—This discussion is of a highly technical character. My own contribution will be an anecdote. Ventilation is a great difficulty to Librarians, especially to those who have to attend in large reading-rooms. The reading-room of the British Museum I, of course, know best. A gentleman who came in with a theory of ventilation was sent to me. His system did not correspond with our practice. He illustrated his views thus: "You were 60 degrees yesterday. The temperature of the external air was 40 degrees, and therefore you were quite right. Now the temperature of the external air is 40 degrees, therefore you ought

to be 50 degrees". (Laughter.) I am not a great authority on ventilation and I should have been rather perplexed, but as I usually do in such cases, I sent for the superintendent of the ventilation, rather a rough man, but with a good deal of practical sense. He heard this man's story and then said: "Well sir, I can only say if I was to make them readers any colder than they are, I would soon have them all at boiling point". (Laughter.) The theorist hadn't another word to say.

Mr. F. J. BURGoyNE's Paper on:—

SOME PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE PUBLIC WORK OF A PUBLIC LIBRARIAN.

Mr. C. W. SUTTON, Manchester—The difficulty of numbering duplicate copies of a book might be got over by lettering them, or by adding a subsidiary number to indicate the first, second or third copy of say *East Lynne*. If the number was 30, by using a letter you would have the second copy 30a, the third 30b and so on, and you could turn the number in the indicator when all the copies were issued.

Mr. J. H. QUINN, Chelsea—In Chelsea with our system we find it possible to give all copies of a book the one number, so that if we had say six copies of *East Lynne* one would be 30a the next 30b and so on. The number in the indicator would be shown in until the last copy was out. With regard to the question of synonymous headings in cataloguing I think we have all experienced great difficulty in dealing with them especially as to which to use. Thus in catalogues you find frequently separate headings for Pathology and Disease, Jurisprudence and Law, and others of the kind. In catalogues of popular Libraries there should be no doubt as to the use of the popular term and preference given to it over the scientific, but in Libraries like Aberdeen University the reverse would be the best form. Of course it is always necessary to give cross references but if carried out to any great extent you have so many of them that your catalogue becomes a mere mass of cross references and so presents a further difficulty.

Mr. C. MADELEY, Warrington—I rise to emphasise the point which Mr. Burgoyne alluded to—the diffidence of many readers who deserve help. It is really remarkable the extreme diffidence on the part of readers who are seeking information useful to themselves. People who come for recreation and a particular book will ask for it every time they come; and if a person comes and asks for a book which he thinks contains something that will be useful to him in his work, and you tell him you have not that book, he will remember it against the Library for twenty years. It is a serious difficulty to provide against. A man once asked for Templeton's *Workshop Companion* and I told him that we did not have it then, but that I had other books of the same character, and after a good deal of persuasion I got him to sit down. He found exactly what he wanted out of another

book of the same character, but had I not persuaded him to remain, he would have gone away abusing the Library. Another case was that of the master of a board school who made constant use of the Library. He asked, "Why have you not got Jones' *Grammar of Ornament*?" "Why," I said, "we have had it for seven years!"

Mr. DENT—The difficulty of getting to know from readers exactly what they are in search of, is a common experience. For instance, many readers who wish to refer to a volume of an encyclopædia seem most unwilling to give an exact clue to their requirements. "They want the volume containing the letter S," is the utmost information they will volunteer. Press them further, tell them that S may run into more than one volume, and they grudgingly give you the second letter, Sc,—whether in search of an article on *Schiller*, or *Schools* or *Science*, or what else, they seem unwilling to disclose. If what they seek is not readily obtainable in the encyclopædia article, they will often prefer to go away without the information, rather than ask help of the Librarian, or disclose the object of their search.

Mr. R. CAMERON, Sunderland—We found some years ago this difficulty. Those who are real students of literature often come in and ask: "Can you refer me to an article which appeared eight or ten years ago in the *Fortnightly Review*? Can you tell me the volume?" I myself have been in that difficulty. Our librarian took considerable trouble and gave us the years and the summary of the contents of each of these periodicals, and that enables us to refer to any article of importance in back numbers. Has Mr. Burgoyne any experience of that?

A MEMBER—All this sort of indexing has already been done in Poole's *Index to Periodical Literature*, an American work. (Applause.)

Mr. L. INKSTER, Battersea—I can support what Mr. Burgoyne has said as to the diffidence of many readers, and may add that we make a point of looking out for them and paying them special attention. The majority of readers in a Public Library, however, are not as a rule troubled with that undesirable quality, and one sometimes meets with amusing instances in which its absence is remarkably conspicuous. Not long ago a gentleman suggested the addition of a certain work to our Reference Library, commenting sarcastically on its absence from the catalogue, where, however, he would have found it duly entered if he had taken the trouble to look. When this fact was pointed out to him in due course, he returned, quite unabashed, to the attack, and in still more scathing terms desired to be informed why a copy was not also placed in the lending department; of course it was there already, but it was evidently not diffidence which had deterred him from making the obvious inquiry first. Ladies are generally backward in asking questions, and as they are always grateful for any little attention, it is a pleasure to take a little extra trouble on their behalf.

Mr. A. MUIR-WILSON, Sheffield—We have frequently letters from

the indignant ratepayer who says we have not got the books he has been looking for. We simply demolish the letter by bringing forward the books. Schoolmasters who ought to know better are the men who write to the public press that our library is filled with ninety per cent of novels and that there is only three per cent of useful books. There are some who will not take the trouble to point out the books they require. I can join with Mr. Dent in regard to the timidity of some readers. There is a tendency among some, to come in and ask for a book, and hesitate about giving sufficient information concerning it, and when it is not forthcoming they write to the newspapers. I think the officers at the counter require a good deal of sympathy for the amount of annoyance and impertinence offered to them by persons who ought to know better. (Hear! hear!)

Mr. DOUBLEDAY—It seems to me that the first point Mr. Burgoyne raised was not a very important one, the difficulty might be overcome if we had a sub-indicator used only for duplicates until all the copies were out. The indicator itself should not be altered till all the copies were issued. We are all troubled with incomplete copies. If we could form an establishment where we could send such and complete the sections missing, I think that would be very useful.

Mr. T. FORMBY, Liverpool—Another point is with regard to aids to readers. We have recently issued at Liverpool a guide to a large number of reference books, and we find it very helpful, putting them on large cards accessible to everybody. In the case of the timid readers we have plenty of them, and I may tell Professor Trail that the most diffident readers are Professors. There is one Professor who is so afraid of giving trouble that we have to ask him to accept our services. We would be glad if he were not so timid. With regard to lady readers the Librarian must have patience and tact. That, along with experience, must go a long way towards smoothing these difficulties. Every assistance is given in Liverpool to aid readers. The bulk of the readers are very grateful for the help we give them. It is one of the greatest pleasures I have, in the course of my duties, and I find the ungrateful are in the minority, scarcely worth troubling your head about, and only a little coaxing is necessary to bring them round. One little thing we do, if a reader comes and we cannot find what he wants, we take their name and address and send them a card and very frequently they get the information they want, and it is found very helpful.

Mr. D. M. WATSON, Hawick—The present discussion shows how very much Librarians appreciate the discussion of these practical questions such as have been raised. I think it is a pity those practical questions are not raised more frequently. This discussion will be most helpful, particularly with regard to the question of duplicate copies of one work and will discover to us a way out of the difficulty.

THE PRESIDENT—It is an interesting and practical discussion. I can myself corroborate the extraordinary difficulty that is experienced in getting readers to use the books provided for

their service as books of reference. They come and go every day and do not know that they are permitted to take them down from the shelves. They are often ladies and require a benevolent person to go with them. There is also much difficulty in getting readers to know that there is a classed index to the books in the reading-room. They can not distinguish this from the general catalogue of all the books in the Library, or the catalogue of books in the reading-room. As a rule 99 out of 100 are excellent people. Sometimes the refractory reader is more trouble and annoyance than the ninety and nine. I was sorry to hear the remarks from Sheffield. I could not help thinking, if Sheffield is so bad, what must Aston be.

Mr. BURGoyNE—I was very glad to hear so interesting a discussion upon what I read, because I was rather afraid the difficulties would appear rather childish to the majority of you. It seemed to me that, when the Council was setting the programme, while we had offers of any amount of bibliographical and literary papers, we had not anything on our ordinary everyday work. Mr. Dent gave us an illustration of people objecting to give the full word they wanted. We had a case a fortnight ago; a lady came in and wanted an encyclopædia. She said: "I want it for 'Ambition,' to write an essay upon it for my school," and she thought she would find it in the Encyclopædia Britannica! Mr. Cameron asked about an index to periodicals. Well, Poole's *Periodical Index* has been mentioned, but I wish Mr. MacLauchlan were out, because I would recommend you all to write to him for his catalogue. I find it of the greatest use, and am very pleased to be able to stand up here and tell you so. Every magazine that they have at Dundee has been thoroughly indexed by author and subject, and all the most important information is fully set out. If you want any information you can generally find it in the index to the magazines. I have found it a most useful and reliable help.

Mr. BARRETT—The Dundee Catalogue is an excessively cheap shilling's worth. The Mayor of Sheffield (Mr. Wilson, "Not yet mayor") was rather hard on the schoolmasters. I do not think he is singular. I find schoolmasters and parsons the worst people to deal with. I attribute it to their vocation. They are not accustomed to contradiction. A guide to readers is badly wanted. How is a man wishing to know about astronomy to know which is best—Ball's or Young's? or on the history of England, that Lingard's is the best from a Roman Catholic point of view, and that Froude's is best from the other side?

Mr. MACLAUHLAN—I feel in a way bound to say this, with regard to the complimentary remark made in reference to our Lending Library Catalogue, that its merits are due to a gentleman who succeeded Dr. Garnett in the British Museum—Mr. Fortescue. When I first got Mr. Fortescue's book (*The British Museum Subject-Index*) I was at once struck with the ability and clearness of what I met there; I did not copy it—but I followed it largely as the model in the index part

of my catalogue. My own is a dictionary catalogue, but our books being so valueless in quality it is not to be named beside that of Mr. Fortescue. I would take it upon myself to recommend the study of these books of Mr. Fortescue's.

THE PRESIDENT—I am glad to hear that tribute to Mr. Fortescue. The authorities of the Museum have not been able to publish the catalogue at a cheap price, and I wish Librarians could by their action get the price of it reduced.

The Meeting at this stage adjourned for Luncheon. After luncheon a photograph was taken of the members by Messrs. Wilson, and business was resumed at 2'30.

A PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARIES ON AN ECONOMICAL BASIS,

By J. J. OGLE.

Councillor ABBOTT, Manchester—Is it possible, under the Act, to unite these parishes in the manner described?—because the authorities, at all events in the district with which I am associated, do not permit of that unity, not even under the present revised Act. Though we might have a parish meeting for the adoption of the Libraries Act there is no provision for the amalgamation of the money; therefore the whole financial burden and responsibility would be thrown upon one-half of the locality.

Mr. WRIGHT, Plymouth—That is provided for in the recent Act. Any outlying district can associate itself with a Public Library by paying a small subscription.

Councillor ABBOTT—There ought to be a Parliamentary Committee of the Council of the Association to deal with such a matter as that.

THE PRESIDENT—The Council will perhaps take note of that suggestion.

Mr. OGLE—It might be as well to stop a mistake of that kind from going any further. The last Act does everything that this gentleman contends for.

Councillor ABBOTT—I do not think so.

Mr. FOVARGUE, Eastbourne—I think the new Act relates only to urban districts.

Councillor ABBOTT—That is so.

This closed the discussion.

THE VILLAGE LIBRARIES OF YORKSHIRE,

By BUTLER WOOD of Bradford.

Alderman BOWES, Salford—Can anyone give any information as to the powers of the County Councils in this matter? I think a body like the County Council ought to take cognisance of such a matter as has been brought forward to-day, and I hope that when the statistics are published they will be sent round to all the County Councils of England.

Mr. FOVARGUE, Eastbourne—I think this is a very important matter and one which the Council might very well take up.

No doubt the Parish Councils Bill will be introduced in the Autumn Session, and some powers ought to be given in a bill like that which would meet the difficulties mentioned here to-day. I think the Council should take note of this.

Councillor ABBOTT—I think also that in view of the Parish Councils Bill being introduced, the Council of this Association ought to take steps to provide that such places as have been mentioned may secure the benefits of Public Libraries.

THE PRESIDENT—I am of the impression that a resolution on the subject would be perfectly competent. It might be better to postpone the resolution till the close—but for my part I see no objection to bringing a resolution forward. I concur very much with what has been said as to the propriety of the Council taking steps in the matter.

Mr. HAND, Oldham—A may say that Sir John Hibbert, Chairman of the Lancashire County Council, spoke to me some-time ago on this very subject. He, as Chairman had been greatly struck with the difficulty that the people in the villages of Lancashire had in obtaining books, and he was anxious that, if possible, some scheme should be brought forward to enable them to get books more easily. I think if the Council were to take the matter up and put themselves in communication with Sir John Hibbert they might receive his assistance.

THE PRESIDENT—That is a very good suggestion. Sir John Hibbert is one of the Government Secretaries.

Mr. CAMERON, Sunderland—If the School Boards are authorised to establish Libraries they might be accessible to pupils who had left their schools. A room might be provided by the School Board for the purpose, and one of the assistant teachers might be paid for circulating and distributing the books. It is a simple and easy method, but to create a new and special body for this purpose is a proceeding I should deprecate. We have too many public bodies already—they are overlapping and coming into collision as it is. I am sorry to say I do not think the County Councils are the best parties to do this work. As to this Association I think it could do nothing better than, besides administering our own Libraries, endeavouring to extend the same advantages that towns enjoy to the country districts.

Mr. BRISCOE, Nottingham—I think it highly desirable that the movement should spread right round the country. Let us during the present year, and before we go over the channel, have complete returns from every part of the country. I myself have done Nottingham, others could take their own counties. Half a dozen might be appointed at this meeting to arrange for this being done. Then we might be in a position to move forward to legislation.

Mr. WRIGHT, Plymouth—That has already been provided for. I was asked to undertake the West of England, and Mr. Ogle has done Lancashire.

Mr. SMITH, Worcester—Some nine or ten years ago I was asked to read a paper at the Annual Meeting of the Worcestershire Union. I went over much the same ground as has been traversed to-day and I suggested the establishment of village

Libraries throughout Worcestershire. The Chairman of the Union, whilst he cordially agreed with my suggestion, could not help remarking that it was a mere question of finance. Now in that county which is largely agricultural, they are so highly rated at the present time that any suggestion that they should put their hands into their pockets for the establishment of village Libraries would meet with the utmost disfavour. But I cannot help thinking the County Councils might do something for us with the special fund placed at their disposal for aiding technical education. I have had an opportunity of seeing what is being done at the present time with this money in the city and the immediate neighbourhood, and my experience is this, that instead of employing lecturers to visit country districts and address the country clergyman, the schoolmaster, one or two farmers and one or two labourers, the County Council might devote at any rate a large proportion of the money with more beneficial results in doing such work as was sketched by Mr. Wood. If the Library Association can provide for extending the benefits of Public Libraries to country districts either by getting the County Councils to take the matter up, or by getting provisions inserted in the new Parish Councils Bill, they will be doing far more useful work than is being done by any of the so-called Technical Committees.

Councillor SOUTHERN, Manchester—We have had a number of suggestions out of which might be eliminated those which are found to be unworkable, and before our next meeting the Council might be prepared with some practical scheme with which we can go before those who would have power to carry the thing into effect. The Municipal Corporations Association has been mentioned. I do not think that could help us a bit in a matter of this sort. It does not come within the purview of their work and I think it would be chasing a chimera to attempt anything in connection with that Association. The County Councils have been mentioned, but the County Council would find many and immediate difficulties in the way. There would be the location of the Library; there would be the local jealousies as between this village and that village as to where the Library should be located. There would be the cost, not a small matter by any means, and I am inclined to think the money, which I do admit is in many cases being frittered away by very imperfect modes of application, might certainly be better devoted to village Libraries. But then you have got to persuade the County Councils of this, and I am afraid that that would be a somewhat tedious process. Therefore it seems to me a wise proposal that the School Boards might be induced to undertake this, as one that has the fewest objections and with the greatest probability of being carried into effect.

Mr. MACLAUCHLAN, Dundee—Just one or two words as to the application of the Free Libraries Act to county districts. I satisfied myself when, in 1880, I prepared a paper on the subject, that to apply the Act to counties would, in Scotland at least, and in the more thinly populated counties, be a

very expensive matter indeed. On working it out statistically I found it would require at the very least an assessment of 2d. in the £. I agree with the gentleman who spoke a little ago, and I must say that extremely favourable as I am to the establishment of Free Libraries, I should hesitate, in the present state of agriculture to add 2d. per £ to the assessment of the farmer. You must remember that in the county the assessment is paid on the house and on the farm as well, and an addition to an assessment of 2d. per £ on a rent of say £800 or £1000 would be a very serious matter for a farmer who could not get ends to meet. To apply the money which is granted for technical education, if it was sufficient—which I doubt—to go over a whole county would be a better way of having the matter carried out. I have often wished that some of that money could be diverted to Free Libraries; but I fear that a direct tax would lead to the defeat of the proposal. There are many difficulties if you look into it. There is the question of distance. One parish I know is forty miles long by thirty miles broad, it is very thinly populated, the rental is not very large, and how are you going to supply a parish of that kind? In the densely populated counties of England where, as Sir Walter Scott said of Fife, there are so many royal burghs that you could almost step on them from one end of the county to the other, the matter would be much simpler; but in Scotland, in all except a very few of the central counties, it would be an extremely difficult matter to arrange.

THE PRESIDENT—The resolution reads—"That in view of the necessities existing in many of our villages for the educational advantages of the Free Public Libraries, this Association requests the Council to take immediate steps to secure some provision in the Parish Councils Bill now being prepared by Government". I think that resolution might be very properly moved and I certainly support it very strongly. As regards what has been said, I think the Parish Councils offer the most hopeful prospect. I have not very much expectations as to the County Councils I must say; but the Parish Councils might, I think, be very properly asked. As to whether any provision of the kind is contained in the Bill I do not, of course, know.

Councillor ABBOTT—I think the position of the Government is so sympathetic that such an opportunity as the present might not occur again. I think we ought to settle the matter now, therefore I propose that special provision should be considered by the Council and a memorial presented to Government setting forth the requirements of the various parishes.

Mr. FOVARGUE—I second that. I think it might be put so that the Council would not be bound to any particular line of action. You might insert the words "or otherwise, as the Council may see best," or something to that effect. There is one other point—the question of a Special Committee. I feel sure the Council is representative of the whole Association, and it is undesirable to appoint a Special Committee particularly since it is a matter which has been before the Committee for twelve months (Hear, hear).

Mr. WOOD—It has given me extreme pleasure to hear such a splendid discussion on this subject. It is a subject which has occupied a good deal of my attention, and I am very much gratified to find this Association so appreciative of its importance. There are one or two things to which I should like to refer. Mr. Smith of Worcester, would like to see the money given under the technical education grant devoted to this purpose. Under the present condition of things that is impossible; it cannot be used for any purpose other than that for which it is specially granted under the Act. My main object in writing this paper was to obtain information from the various localities, because, I take it, we can only deal with this question after we have got the very fullest information as to the actual condition of things at present. As this is more a country question, and does not affect very much the London members of the Council it would be a very great help for the country members to be brought together a little oftener than they are, so that these purely country questions might receive fuller and more adequate consideration; and if any means could be devised of holding the meetings in the provinces I think we should like it all the better.

THE PRESIDENT—I have now inserted the words in the resolution “or otherwise, as the Council may think best”. Is it your pleasure to adopt the resolution? (Applause.) I declare the resolution adopted unanimously. (Applause.)

At this stage in the proceedings the President vacated the chair to fulfil an engagement. His place in the chair was taken by Mr. J. T. Clark, Edinburgh.

Having disposed of the “Blacking Out” Discussion, the Chairman then called upon Mr. MacAlister to read his paper:—

HOW TO KEEP DOWN THE ISSUES OF FICTION.

Baillie WALKER, Aberdeen.—As one who has had as much to do with books, perhaps, as any one present, especially with fiction, in a large Library of 52,000 volumes, I think I should know something about this question, and it appears to me to be an utter mistake to allege that fiction is a mark of degeneracy in reading. I take that ground very firmly. I know perfectly well, and of course you will all agree with me, that it is better to read fiction than nothing at all; better to read fiction than to roam the streets. Fiction is just the A B C of a reader's education. It is the thing a reader begins with. It is the fairy stories which lead him on to read other books. From fairy stories he gets to the *Pilgrim's Progress* and Bunyan's *Holy War*—(laughter)—and I am certain of this, that there is no better road to make a thorough reader than to begin with fiction. I have noticed and watched the operation of children in demanding fiction in our own Library. It has been my thorough delight. In so far as adopting as a means of reducing fiction reading, the plan of buying six volumes of somebody's sermons, and only one of a popular novel I would reverse the thing with great

pleasure. First of all you learn the English language from novels. I was a novel reader for many a year. If I have any acquaintance with the English language it arises entirely from reading novels,—my reading came entirely from novels. I do not read a great many novels, not one perhaps in a year. I would feel sorry to be deprived of such novels as, *A Princess of Thule*, *Lorna Doone* and so on. These novels are the things which take the place of the dull and prosy sermons. We must remember that it has been attempted to teach a new theology through *David Grieve*. Views of nature, and psychology, of human nature generally are promulgated through novels and the world would be the worse if it hadn't them. It would be a great pity if we are to be debarred from these, simply because they are in a novel. I am proud to say that we stand in Aberdeen the lowest in regard to novel reading. Why? Because the people have been educated up and beyond the tide mark of the novel reader. We have brought a number of them on to dry land and they can run across the whole country of literature.

Mr. CAMERON, Sunderland—If any gentleman in the nineteenth century will say that novels should not be read, he is a hundred years after date. The real description of human nature, analysis of human passions and motives were never better illustrated in our time, than by the novels of George Eliot, no nobler analyses of human nature have been given than in *Hyppatia*, *Westward Ho*, or the bulk of Sir Walter Scott's novels. Such are literature for all. There are novels and novels. There is ephemeral trash which simply wastes the space of our Libraries, and is also waste of money. I trust selecting Committees will use discretion, select wisely, and make a firm rule that they will not exceed a certain portion of other literature. For twelve years now we have had a rule that only one-third of our purchases, sometimes reaching £20 a month, should be fiction by the standard authors and writers in our time. The result, Mr. President, is this, that now our issues of novels have fallen to about 50 per cent. That is a large percentage, but it was over 80 before. We who have most to do with the selection of books take care to give the best travels, the best biographies, the best and most popular books of science and of poetry, and we exhibit them, so that readers can see what our additions are. They can come for them, and we have educated the taste by supplying the right literature. Thomas Carlyle records of himself in his autobiography that when he was tired writing, and his temper not of the best, he took Dickens's novels and read them in the country, and nothing else for a month in order to restore his faculties. When wholesome, and by genuine authors who know human nature, it is folly to denounce novels; but they should be in their proper place.

THE CHAIRMAN—Everybody knows that it is not a bad thing to read novels but you feel that there are too many novels read. How can you decrease the number of novels and increase the number of readers of good books?

Mr. W. MAY, Birkenhead—I would make some remarks with all due respect to the previous speakers. Mr. MacAlister raised the question of how we can dispense with duplicating present day novels, and save the money for duplicating other classes of books. It may serve a little purpose by directing attention to the subject, but most of the questions that came up before us, can be answered by one's own personal experience. Nothing gives us greater pleasure than to be called upon by the public to duplicate non-fictional books. As these copies are worn out, they are not replaced, but their places are taken by newer books, in the case of standard novels, these are always kept in stock, and it is seen that people do not go away without really good novels. The question of duplicating books in other classes, is after all with the Librarian very much like admitting betting news into the newspapers. It is a question of public demand regulating the supply. I am sure the majority of Librarians would be pleased if allowed to supply duplicate copies of Macaulay's *History of England*. There are no more popular books than Green's *History of England*, and biographies.

Mr. SHAW, Liverpool—I think Mr. MacAlister is striking very much at the experience of the Subscription Library. I cannot speak for the ordinary Free Library, but in the Subscription Library a great deal of reading is done by professional men. They go to these Libraries for novels only. Professional men are very hard readers themselves and their record is mainly fiction. Again you have, speaking of the Library with which I am connected, an issue from your permanent shelves, not so much of fiction, which you issue for a fortnight or a month. A member takes down one of these books and keeps it for a month. He takes more novels in the same time which he only keeps for a week and you naturally run away with the idea that the amount of novels far exceeds the solid reading. Whether Mr. MacAlister's suggestion of issuing a second ticket will reduce the numbers or not I do not know, nor whether he intends the second ticket to be retained for standard works only or for works other than fiction.

Mr. MACALISTER—Non-fictional books.

Mr. SHAW, Liverpool—I do not know how it would work. I am afraid it would probably increase the quantity of fiction. Probably the man would have to give in a novel under the present system to get out a standard book. He could have one novel for the members of his house.

Mr. MADELEY, Warrington—Whilst we are all aware that there are a large number of readers who take fiction as a relaxation from the better class of literature, all Librarians of Free Libraries are perfectly aware that, leaving them aside, there remains an enormous number of readers who read nothing but novels, and are reading almost all their leisure time. It is a painful subject to think of, because it is a fact too that the people who read nothing but novels, read nothing but the poorest of novels, considered as literature. It seems as if novel reading were like some kind of indulg-

ence where the taking of a frequent stimulant leads to the necessity for more. A good many of my friends smoke for pleasure, and without it they are uncomfortable. The reading of novels is like that to a man. Any suggestion that would lead this class of people to a better taste in reading, and help them to appreciate a better class of literature, would be very useful. I do not see much chance in the practical suggestions made by Mr. MacAlister, and for which we are indebted to him. He said that if statistics could be collected, they might show that there was a connection between the proportion of issue and the proportion of stock. In the absence of Mr. Sime of Edinburgh I may mention, while the subject is before us, that he showed me some statistics of that kind, and the result, so far as he had gone, appeared to show no connection between the proportion of fiction and the rest of the stock, and the proportion of issue to the rest of the stock. We must remember that these statistics are vitiated when we have to compare Libraries, where the whole stock had been selected recently, with those where the stock was collected thirty years ago. With regard to Mr. May's suggestion that in this matter the supply is regulated by the demand, I would suggest that it is equally true that the demand is regulated to a very great extent by the supply. In the Reference Library at Birmingham where there was a very large collection of works relating to Shakespeare, the issue was extraordinarily large. I don't know that we ever attributed that as a remarkable appreciation of the genius of Shakespeare, or the remarkable interest in that literature, but rather to the enormous amount of space this class of literature occupied in the catalogue. If you supply a good class of literature in your catalogue, readers will have it presented more often to their notice. The person who reads history will come to find his reading within a comparatively narrow line. You offer to him half a dozen new books a year, to the novel reader a score of books a year. It is very difficult to offer the good reader the same choice as an inferior reader.

Mr. DENT—Another method, one very casually mentioned, of exhibiting in cases all the new books of the better class to readers, has largely reduced the average issues in the class of fiction, and we have a large number of people now who go to the cases to see what books are shown, because really they do not know what else to do as they cannot get what they want from the catalogue. If readers only saw something interesting to them I am sure they would use that section of the books more.

Mr. DOUBLEDAY—I have done something at Marylebone by recommending novel readers to read various works of history as companions to the works of fiction. Some one has mentioned *Hyppatia*, I have several times induced people to take Bradley's *History of the Goths* which gives real depth and colour to Kingsley's great work. If a list was compiled of such companion volumes, it would be very useful.

Mr. DAVIS, Wandsworth—You would reduce the issue of fiction if all ladies were debarred from borrowing books. (Laughter.)

Mr. J. T. CLARK—In support of what Mr. Dent said, I know the very great advantage of giving to an educated constituency the whole of the new books, and allowing them to lie in the reading-room for a month before borrowing is allowed at all. You would wonder then at the demand for them. I think with regard to the reduction of the issue of fiction that it is against the issue of more solid literature where all these mechanical systems are used. I think the whole question is a question of patience. The full effects of your recently instituted system of education has not yet been quite felt. The class of books used in the schools at the present day is very superior in the matter, and in the form of the matter, than in the days when I was at school. They lead the pupil to follow out unconsciously the subject so interestingly put down. If we have patience for some little time, we will see a diminution in regard to the returns of fiction reading, and an increase of higher reading.

Mr. MACALISTER—There is no need for the conventional reply. I should like to assure my friend Mr. Walker that I agree with every word he said. All the history I know I learned from Scott. I think Councillor Cameron really proved my case. My random observation goes to prove that these Libraries having the biggest quantities of fiction, have the biggest issues of fiction. What I do feel very strongly is that this question of fiction is one of the strongest arguments used against the Free Library movement. Wherever we try to get a Free Library started posters are sent round stating that the ratepayers are being robbed for the sake of lending sensation novels. Mr. Walker can regard this pleasantly, as they are at the very bottom of the issues of fiction. The London papers recently called attention to the fact that over eighty per cent of fiction issues was the rule in many Libraries.

THE CHAIRMAN I suppose, ladies and gentlemen, we shall now take the discussion on Professor's Trail's paper.

Mr. SHAW—I would suggest that that discussion might be postponed till to-morrow. The paper has only been distributed this morning, and I, at any rate, have not had time to peruse it.

THE CHAIRMAN—Would to-morrow suit you, Professor Trail?

Professor TRAIL—If I had some idea of the hour at which it was to be taken it might.

THE CHAIRMAN—Shall we take the discussion on Professor Trail's paper the first thing to-morrow? (Applause.) Then that is decided.

A number of those in attendance at the Congress accepted Mr. Robertson's invitation to visit the Free Public Library.

BUSINESS MEETING.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

HON. SECRETARY—I beg to propose that Mr. Wright, one of our Vice Presidents, take the chair. ["Agreed."]

THE CHAIRMAN—We are now asked to consider Mr. Mason's

proposal that a new rule, between 7 and 8 in sect. iv., be added, *viz.*: "The Council shall at their first meeting elect six of their members to form with the Officers of the Association an Executive Committee to whom they shall depute the administration of the affairs of the Association in the periods between the meetings of the Council. The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be chosen from amongst the six elected members."

Mr MASON—I think that the importance of the alteration proposed justifies me in saying a few words before I formally move the resolution of which I have given notice. At the present time we have a Council of, I think, altogether something like fifty-four members. That Council consists of a certain number of country members, a dozen London members, vice-presidents, and the past presidents. At every meeting of the Council, however small the meeting may be, the whole of this tremendous Council from all parts of the three kingdoms has to be summoned. The actual result is that the London members only can attend the Council. At the same time the visits of the provincial members of the Council are few and far between, and worse than that when a provincial member of the Council takes the trouble and is at the expense of coming up to London, it is usually because he can do some other business, and it often turns out that the meeting is of practically minor importance. He comes there and is practically alone. The London members constitute the Council, and they are very pleased to see him, but as to having any control or much influence you can see at a glance that is impossible. He comes to that meeting and he hears something mooted perhaps for the first time. He cannot come to the next meeting and he probably does not come for a year to a meeting. Therefore you see that the Council which you know consists of fifty-four members actually, for all practical purposes consists of less than a dozen members who happen to reside in London. I am modest enough to say that all the wisdom is not confined to London, that the London members, however well the Association may choose them, are not all men say of the highest wisdom and calibre. I am quite prepared to admit, as a London member, that we would be very much better of a regular attendance of provincial members at the Council, and I have heard from time to time a complaint, which I think was very well justified, a complaint from the country, that they were not adequately represented at this Council, but there was the prohibitive condition of paying their own expenses in coming up. I think it would be well, Mr. Chairman, to speak on both resolutions at the same time, because if you do not approve of the first, there is no need to adopt the second. I have been asked to make it clear that the condition as to railway fares was not the reason of the proposal of these alterations. You may take it that it was not likely to be an inducement to me. The railway fares are an absolute necessity. What I anticipate if you pass this resolution is, that the Council shall at their first meeting elect six of the best men we have

got in the Association; that these men shall practically promise that they are in a position to attend all the meetings during the year, and that the paying of the railway fare will practically enable them to do so at a very small expense. I feel it necessary to put in this condition about the railway fare, as you cannot possibly expect a Librarian to come 60 or 200 miles at his own expense six or twelve times a year. I think if you carry this proposition, that you will get one thing—you will get a continuity of policy in the Council. You will have, I should hope, a strong board who will be independent of the officers, and will be able to control the officers. The Council will still be a position of honour. Members who feel it an honour to be elected on the present Council shall still be able to attain that honour. They will be elected on the Council and the Council will meet as often as necessary, perhaps at each annual meeting, or perhaps two or three times a year. All the history of our Association has proved that the calling of this great Council some twelve times a year, has never brought up more than three or four provincial members a year. I have heard that this proposal looked very much like electing a Council to give away its powers to another Council. If you read the resolution carefully you will see that the Council shall depute the administration of the affairs of the Association in the periods between the meetings of the Council. That shows you that the Council may if they think fit give further instructions to the Executive. I think if you carry these resolutions, that you will do a very great deal to maintain the interest of the country members in the Association; that you will widen the interest in the operations of the Association, that you will get a very much better board than you can possibly have under the present conditions, and I sincerely hope that you will carry the resolutions. I beg to move that the new rule as stated by the Chairman be added to the constitution.

THE CHAIRMAN—I think it would be strictly in form to read the second and ask Mr. Mason to move the first, we will then take them separately; that will allow a discussion on the whole. The second rule is: "That sect. vi., rule 2, be altered to read as follows: The election of Officers and Council shall be conducted by ballot upon a list, which shall include all nominations sent to the Secretary at least ten days before the Annual Meeting. Each nomination must be assented to in writing by at least three members of the Association. The election of the Executive Committee shall be conducted by ballot in the following manner: each member of the Council shall hand in to the Secretary a paper containing the names of six members, and the six receiving the highest number of votes shall be the Executive Committee for the ensuing year. The Executive Committee shall meet every two months at such time and place as shall suit the majority of the members, and third class railway fares shall be allowed."

Mr. MASON now proposes the first resolution. I ask for a seconder.

Mr. W. CROWTHER—I second it *pro forma* that we may have it discussed.

After a long discussion, which was carried on by Messrs. Davis, Radford, Watson, Fovargue, Ogle, Madeley, Ballinger, Pacy, Crowther, Mason, Knapman, Hopwood, and others, the resolution was negatived by 28 votes to 16. Mr. Mason then withdrew his second resolution.

On the motion of Mr. MacAlister, seconded by Mr. J. W. Knapman, it was agreed that in section 8 of the Constitution, rule 2, line 4, the word "one" be struck out and the word "two" substituted, and that after the word "Secretary" in line 5, the following words be added: "and that notice of such amendment be given on the summons of such meeting".

On Mr. MacAlister's motion it was unanimously resolved to appoint Mr. H. W. Fovargue Honorary Solicitor to the Association, and to alter section 4, rule 1, and section 4, rule 5 accordingly.

On the motion of the Chairman the Annual Report of the Association was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. Tedder the Treasurer's report and accounts were taken as read and adopted.

THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 1893.

On resuming this morning,

THE HON. SECRETARY said—I regret that our President is not able to be present this morning, and I move that Mr. Rawson, one of our vice-presidents, take the chair.

MR. RAWSON—I will do the best I can.

THE HON. SECRETARY intimated that the Association would dine that evening at 7'30 in Mann's Grand Hotel.

THE CHAIRMAN—Before we begin the business of the day I am asked to announce that the Council not only expect, but hope, for the presence of ladies to-night. At the close of our proceedings yesterday, it was arranged that the discussion of Professor Trail's paper should be taken first this morning, and that Miss James's paper should be taken immediately thereafter. We will now take up Professor Trail's paper.

MR. CLARK, Edinburgh—I confess to a feeling of very distinct diffidence in attempting to make any remarks upon the important paper that Professor Trail has contributed to the meeting of the Association. My own feeling is, after a long experience of a library, that we have rather too much classification, and after carefully reading over Professor Trail's paper, it has left the impression on my mind that this was a case of over classification. That the paper is a contribution by one of very scientific mind, a very cursory glance at the paper shows, and that whether looked at with regard to the compilation of a subject catalogue, under which books should be classified under certain headings, or looked at from the more practical point of view, of the placing of certain books in certain shelves. I honestly con-

fess to Professor Trail, I avoid consulting any system of classification myself. Professor Trail attempts in his paper to deal with difficulties that librarians experience in attempting to classify strictly under a certain system of classification, especially with regard to books of natural science, the difficulty arising from the very mixed character of a great many of the publications. One book would go quite as readily under one heading, as under another, and therefore we librarians, and those of us who are forced from the exigencies of space to have a very broad classification, are generally able to manage it, without recourse to such a valuable paper as Professor Trail has given us. The changing nature of science subjects is another difficulty. In the paper you will find that the first thing that strikes us, is the absence of gaps to provide for future exigencies in various departments of knowledge. You might leave gaps in shelves, but before the books appear the demand for space for other books has come upon you in such a way as to force you to fill them up. I would leave it to some one else, who has had experience of the subject catalogue, to say whether the divisions and subdivisions have been carefully studied from a practical point of view. I think that we, as librarians, have been fortunate in getting one of such high scientific attainments as Professor Trail, to contribute such a paper.

Mr. H. R. TEDDER—I fully admit that this subject scarcely presents so many features of public interest as the discussion on "blacking out". We are deeply indebted to Professor Trail, for his extremely interesting paper, which he has been good enough to get printed, so as to enable us to study it with more attention than we could otherwise have bestowed on it. While the paper was being read, I did not know whether a copy of Dewey's *Classification* was in the room, because I am quite sure it would not be difficult to produce many other horrible illustrations of the evils of classification besides those given by Professor Trail. The great objections I make to classification of this kind is that the librarian thinks, not that the classification ought to fit the books, but that the books ought to fit the classification. Every classification of this kind looks very imposing and very useful, until it is put to the practical test, and when you put a classification to the practical test you are at once met with this difficulty—a fundamental difficulty in modern classifications. We moderns are very apt to look upon all literature as the product of the present age. Literature is a growth, therefore the kind of classification which is very well adapted to a scientific library is practically useless when directed towards such subjects as theology, history, and similar classes. For my part I have had a good deal to do with the study of classification for many years. The classification I like best is the classification of the alphabet. Most people understand that. (Laughter.)

Mr. OGLE—I am very pleased indeed that in his paper Professor Trail has raised this difficult question of classification. A similar question has been discussed by the Museum's Association, *viz.*:—the classification of *objects* illustrating the

sciences. We have the authority of Sir William Flower, that classification amongst naturalists at the present day is in a greater state of uncertainty than it was thirty or forty years ago. That being so, it becomes a difficult thing for us to form any scheme of classification applicable to books dealing with the sciences. Professor Trail seemed to think that books should be easier to classify than things. Now I think, on the other hand, librarians have a greater difficulty in classifying books than naturalists have in classifying things. Books are of such a complex nature that one gets four or five important and often unrelated branches of science treated in a single work. In classifying, therefore, a scientific book, the first main object of the librarian is that he should work in accordance with the aim of the library. He has to decide which is the most important portion of the book in reference to that aim. Suppose he has a book containing articles on the fauna and flora of a particular country, and his library is one in which geographical distribution is the most important thing to be noticed, the geography and not the botany or the zoology of the book will determine to which division it belongs. Any scheme of classification is open to criticism. In many ways Mr. Dewey's classification has been criticised. The wonder to me is, that there is not more criticism. Professor Trail has given us instances of the anomalies of the Dewey classification. If Professor Trail had proposed another system it doubtless would have been open to adverse criticism. Take the difficulty of classifying to suit future developments of knowledge. In a library founded thirty years ago, and containing a large number of natural history books, all the books on palæontology would be classified along with geology. But naturalists are now almost unanimous that palæontology must be classified as a branch of biology; yet the fact remains that palæontology is oftener than not treated in books on geology. Take any history of libraries and look at some of the early classifications, and you will find the same difficulty. The classifications of the past are altogether out of date now. New branches of knowledge are opening up from time to time and there is no provision for missing links. There *must* be shifting views. Professor Trail says we must not have a stereotyped classification. But we must have some sort of classification and order on our shelves. The only thing to do is to think out a scheme of classification to suit one's own library, bearing in mind its special aim and arrange the books accordingly. Never mind about uniformity all round. There is just one other point in criticising in detail the views even of Mr. Dewey. Microscopy is included in biology. Professor Trail thinks that is not well placed, that it ought to come together with methods of teaching and studying under "Education". Yet books on microscopy generally go along with biological books. It is the biologist who reads them. There are special books on certain branches of microscopy, which range with petrological or mineralogical books. One has to take the algebraic sum of the characters

to decide where a particular book shall go. With such an exceedingly difficult subject I do not think we can hope for many years to come—perhaps never—for any uniformity of classification, and as Sir William Flower said “a little variety does no harm”.

Mr. MADELEY—Whilst Mr. Ogle is deprecating immediate action, it unfortunately happens that the fatal facility with which Dewey's system can be used when once adopted is stealing a march on us. This fatal facility I look upon as a very dangerous matter with regard to such a classification as the Dewey classification. It is founded on a radically wrong basis. Mr. Dewey has so tied himself down, so limited himself, and at the same time undertaken to spread himself in order to fit a decimal notation, that he has fallen into the anomalies, which Mr. Ogle and Professor Trail have alluded to. The method of notation used requires that each book in the library should receive a certain number. If in one of the main divisions, it can be indicated by only one figure; but as a matter of fact three figures are commonly used. Whatever part of your library happens to be strong and you wish to subdivide it, you have the penalty of being forced to use a very long symbol. Of course, you may say, there is no harm in such a case, but it applies all round the circle of this decimal scheme. Take an illustration at home. In the Aberdeen Public Library, the Reference Department is classified on the Dewey system. Naturally they have a number of books relating to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. In order to form a separate group of the books which fall under history and geography, it is necessary to have a press mark for this group alone of seven figures; after that if you have more than ninety-nine books you must use other three figures, so that in the case of every book relating to Aberdeen, you have to write down a press-mark of nine or ten figures to indicate that book. The same thing happens everywhere, and it is one of the disadvantages that you cannot subdivide where you wish without this inconvenient notation. Professor Trail refers to the want of subdivision in the scientific classification. The number of figures used in the press mark is a sign of the real importance of classification in the library. With three figures in Dewey's system we can indicate in a group the different departments of Spanish philology, while with the same number of symbols you have the same grade of division to include all the books in all the Indian languages.¹ I therefore am extremely glad, that a specialist like Professor Trail in his own particular department, has found this not only inconvenient, but that it does not present a scientific view of the subject. We are very much indebted to him for attacking on that side a system which I think from its fatal facility in use is likely dangerously to occupy the ground which we would prefer to keep open for a more rational system.

¹ This is not quite correct, as Dewey refers to the division English philology as a pattern for French, Spanish and other languages not set out in full.—ED.

Professor TRAIL—In introducing this subject my desire was not to find fault but to state a difficulty that I have felt very strongly myself in my own particular line of work, to state that difficulty with the hope that some discussion here might help me to get light on the points which I have felt inability to meet myself. I feel that it is very easy to criticise. Mr. Ogle has shown that it is very easy to do so. I return to the more serious part of the subject. I chose the division of biology for criticism, as I am more especially acquainted with it; in Dewey's system, which system I selected for criticism as being the strongest of all that have yet been published, as is shown by the extent to which it is followed. I have no wish to deny its excellent points; but I believe its use involves some risk of fixing errors in the classification of books. I believe that this subject of classification must be studied by librarians just as in natural science we have to study how to classify the objects that are to be placed before the public in a museum. We cannot place these objects merely in an alphabetical arrangement. This arrangement leaves people absolutely without a guide as to the true relationships of the various objects, inasmuch as it brings together many that are widely different, and separates others that ought to be placed side by side; and this results not from the plan but from mere accident. Under it there is no opportunity to get the information one requires. The same applies to books as well as to objects in natural science. What readers especially require is some good and easily intelligible guide by which all the information they want can be got without delay. Can members of this Association help to supply such a guide for readers? As a reader I have felt that a good guide to subjects is absolutely indispensable if a library is to be as widely useful as possible. What is the best form in which to supply one? I do not venture to put forward suggestions of my own as to how this can best be done; but full criticism as to the best method of doing it is much to be desired. In the meantime any attempt can only be a temporary one; and there is reason to deprecate any effort to stereotype certain views, however enlightened such may appear to us at the present time. We are only feeling our way, groping in the dark, making our way step by step through the difficulties that encumber the path. That being so I think that to stereotype any system is a great danger,—a danger that has made itself felt in the natural sciences only too largely. It was apparent in almost every book on botany published in the early part of this century. The Linnean system of classification of plants, an artificial system, and an exceedingly easy one to work out, but for that very reason opposed to progress, held the ground; and those who used it bitterly fought against the introduction of the less easily worked, but far preferable natural classification. In like manner in the arrangement of books there is a strong temptation to make use of the easy alphabetical grouping, and to oppose the more valuable classification by relationship of subjects. But in libraries as in the natural sciences the true system must

gain ground. It must grow, we need not look for it to be discovered at once—to spring up in its completeness at once. What I ask is that there shall not be premature attempts to stereotype any system, since we have not the knowledge adequate for this, nor are likely to gain it, I hold that the special needs of every library must be kept in view. Yet I think it is possible for some general conclusions to be arrived at, and that progress can be made, taking care that the lines of progress shall not be hampered by too rigid methods. A considerable amount of freedom to take advantage of, or to adapt oneself to circumstances will be best for libraries as well as for librarians. I hope that it will be recognised by all the members of this Association that I have occupied your time not with any desire to put forward my own crude views or to criticise unfairly any system that has been put forward by others, but only that I might obtain information from whoever can give it upon a subject that I have felt most difficult but that I believe is one of almost vital importance to the usefulness of our libraries.

The CHAIRMAN—I think, considering the extreme technicality of the subject, the speakers have favoured us with useful elucidatory observations. As Professor Trail said, we should not keep to rigidity, but leave room for expansion, and hold ourselves to meet any honest suggestions made towards the end we all desire to see.

I have much pleasure in asking Miss James to read a paper on,—

REPORT ON LIBRARIANSHIP AS A PROFESSION FOR WOMEN IN AMERICA.

Mr. JAMES D. BROWN, Clerkenwell—My own observation of the work of American libraries enables me to endorse nearly everything Miss James has said, though there are one or two points she has, very discreetly, passed over in silence. These I must also leave to the intelligence of those present. In my opinion the library profession in America is already becoming overcrowded, and I heard of cases in which lady applicants for vacancies were so numerous as to give the last one little hope of a position before she was about fifty years old! From what I saw, I should be disposed to say that in American libraries the women do most of the work, while the men appropriate most of the credit. But a day of retribution is at hand, for the signs of the times point to the ultimate extermination of the male librarian in both British and American libraries and then, perhaps, Miss James will be thoroughly satisfied. By way of supplement to Miss James's very complete paper I should like to say that, in my humble opinion, the fair discipline maintained in American reading-rooms might with advantage be imitated among the lady assistants themselves. An assistant who can talk with effect to a disorderly reader should not be too free with her eloquence among her colleagues on the staff side of the counter. It might also be added that the higher scale of salaries paid is not so extra-

vagantly liberal as might at first sight appear, because when you have divided the amount by two, a better idea will be obtained of its purchasing power; and that, after all, is the important part.

Mr. TEDDER—About ten years ago our late excellent friend, Mr. Cornelius Walford, gave a report on his visit to the United States, and made a statement which struck us very much indeed. He was surprised to notice that in America library work seemed, as he put it, as delicately as possible, not to improve the physical appearance of the lady librarian. That is very strange, sir, because in this country it is just the reverse.

Mr. L. INKSTER—I should like to say a few words on this interesting question. I have always been in favour of giving women the same chance as men, and at Battersea we have made the experiment. When we opened our libraries we were not able to find women sufficiently qualified as seniors. We engaged three girls along with the boys as juniors, and the ages of both boys and girls were about fourteen or fifteen. I am glad to say that in comparing the two we find that the girls have always been ahead of the boys. We get as good work from a girl of fifteen as we can get from a young man of eighteen or twenty. He has to begin at that age before he can match the attainments of a girl of fifteen. Another thing we have taken care to do—and the commissioners made it the first condition—that the salaries paid to both sexes should be equal. (Hear, hear.) That is, I think, fair. We were met with the argument from some outside people who objected to these appointments of women, that we should get girls who only wanted pocket money, and who did not look forward to taking the work seriously, and that they would be content with a small salary, and after a time go away and get married. These three girls have remained with us all along. We have had sixteen or twenty lads who have come and gone in search of something better, just when they were beginning to be useful. At different times I have had small competitive examinations in English literature and history and other subjects, to help on our juniors in learning their business. Strange to say, the girls have shown the most interest and been at the head, and miles ahead, of all the young men, even those who were their seniors by two or three years. I hope in future years we shall hear of this movement extending. I hope librarians will not be so prejudiced against women, as I know they are. I do not say *all*. Many of my best friends are prejudiced against them, and have reproached me for doing what they consider a foolish thing, and said that I would afterwards regret it.

Mr. OGLE—The most encouraging thing to me is that women having situations as librarians elevates education. Notwithstanding what I said about women and boys yesterday I am glad to say I have a very open mind on the subject. My library does not employ women librarians. I have no objection if a lady offers her services and seems to be better

fitted for the post than a young man. It is a question with many of us to know whether the health of ladies is really better than the other sex. It is a most important point, and I am not convinced on that point. I am convinced that ladies of the class from which assistants are mainly drawn are superior to the opposite sex in point of education. I hope it will stir up all the other sex who think of going in for library work.

Councillor SOUTHERN—I think if we require any demonstration of the absolute fitness of women for the post of librarian, we have it furnished in the person of Miss James. She is in herself a refutation of any of the doubts and misgivings as to the fitness of women for this office. In Manchester for a long time we have had lady librarians, and we have no less than six of our libraries,—some of them libraries of very considerable importance, under the charge of women librarians. Among the libraries in this country, and in America, and in France, there is a large number of women employed. When in Paris last year, I took occasion to go round some of these libraries. If I wanted to take a person to see the brightest library I could show him, I would take him to the meanest district of Manchester—Ancoats—and show him a library which presents one of the most bright and cheerful spectacles that he could wish to see. I do not know any library so well conducted,—everything bright and as it should be,—in the midst of a dense working population, and it is under the management of a lady librarian. I do not know what trouble Mr. Ogle might find in securing proper candidates, but our trouble in Manchester is, that hope deferred makes the hearts of the applicants sick, and one frequently has inquiries as to why a certain admirable and estimable candidate has been passed over, who applied two or three years ago. I daresay to-day, if we went through our application book, we should find that those to be brought before the committee, were applicants of three years standing. That is the state of the case in Manchester. We have an admirable supply of well-qualified persons, and our experience is that they make very admirable librarians indeed.

Mr. BUTLER WOOD—I should like to ask whether we really need any men librarians at all, for it seems to me, judging from the tone of the paper we have just listened to, and from the remarks of some of the speakers, that men librarians are of a decidedly inferior class. But that is not what I got up to say. (Laughter.) Although I cannot admit that we are inferior in point of capacity, I will say this much, that we have no reason to regret the employment of female assistants in Bradford. We have no less than half a dozen in the Central Library, and the head of the Reference Department is a lady who is thoroughly equal to her duties.

Miss JAMES—I am glad to hear from the remarks that have been made, that it seems possible for women to rise to better positions as librarians in England, and not remain in the ranks of subordinates for ever.

Mr. R. K. DENT on being asked to read his paper on,—

TITLES, OR TRAPS FOR THE UNWARY,

said, that seeing so much time has been taken up yesterday by the discussion on "Blacking-out," he had not attempted to finish his paper. He intended to send it to the *Library* instead.

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Mr. MacAlister to read his paper on,—

THE TAXATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The CHAIRMAN (Councillor Southern)—Mr. MacAlister not being present, I may take the opportunity of saying that I consider this question as one of the most serious that could come before this meeting. The question of assessment, both for local rates and imperial taxes of our libraries, has been brought into a position of critical prominence by the case of Bristol, which was decided last year. Through the Bristol Free Library Committee, the Corporation appealed against their assessments. Their appeal went to the Court of Queen's Bench. I am not quite clear whether the appeal was against the imperial tax or local rates. I am inclined to think that it was income tax. However, the question as to whether the one or the other, is to some extent unimportant, because the decision which the Court of Queen's Bench gave, would govern either case. It is matter, I think, of regret that the decision of the Queen's Bench was not carried before the Court of Appeal; and for this reason, that if a bill be introduced to exempt Free Libraries in the future, it will be met by two classes of opponents—by those who say: "Well, but you have not fully tested the law, why not carry your appeal to a higher court, and be absolutely clear as to the existing law". On the other hand it will be met by those who upon the soundest principles, object to all exceptions whatever. This intelligent association should not be charged with ignorant impatience of taxation. I am inclined to think it a sound principle that all property which receives advantages from local expenditure should pay its fair quota towards the cost. If it be protected from fire and robbery; if streets are made for its convenience, and if all the provisions of local taxation which other property enjoys are extended to that property some reason should be given for exemption. There are however grounds on which you can ask for exemption. One ground upon which you can ask for it is that you have had by prescriptive use for many years, the right of exemption. It may not have been so decided by courts of law but the privilege has been enjoyed. And then there is further this argument, that Parliament in its wisdom, or in its folly, has limited the means which are at the disposal of Free Libraries to a certain penny in the pound, and that therefore a change by a legal decision, which would materially limit the resources of Free Library Committees and managers, is one

which we should have a right to object to. I should put it in this way. Statutory exemptions are enjoyed by chapels, churches, schools of art and the like, and so long as any exemption exists, Free Libraries have an equal, if not a prior, claim, not only because they have hitherto not been taxed, and yet have found their resources in many instances inadequate to their needs, but because they can show that the operation of the agency which they direct, is not only intellectually and educationally to elevate, but also socially to elevate, and anything which taxes an agency of that sort is impolitic. (Applause.) Now, in Manchester, we have decided to do what the Bristol people have done. I do not know—I should like to know—it may perhaps come out in this discussion—what is being done in other towns. In Manchester we have decided not to pay either the income tax assessments, or local rates and poor assessments, and we propose, in the least expensive way we can, to take a judgment in the Queen's Bench, and then to carry it to the Court of Appeal, and have the law finally settled, as to whether Public Free Libraries are liable for assessment or not. If the judgment should go against us, then it will be for the friends of libraries all over the country to use that enormous influence which they can use, if they are in earnest in the matter, with their various friends and members of Parliament, to secure the passing of a bill, which shall give us by statute the exemption which we have by custom enjoyed before without it. I think it is a matter which really demands the immediate attention of this Conference.

Mr. BARRETT—I do not rise, sir, to make any remarks on the main question, but I should be glad to be informed, how far the Association and under what conditions the exemption which Mr. Southern has spoken of, has hitherto been enjoyed, whether arising from the Act passed in the early part of the present reign, exempting Literary and Scientific Institutions, or whether enjoyed on any other ground. I am not aware whether Mr. Mathews is present now. He will inform us what was the case in Bristol. The statute I refer to is one exempting from local taxation (not imperial) Literary and Scientific Institutions. It will be convenient to know at the outset how we stand.

Mr. BUCKLAND—Mr. Southern was very anxious to know what other towns in the kingdom were doing in this matter. We are assessed for local taxation, and ever since the Library has been formed, about £20 a year has been paid as rates, but we are not assessed for income tax.

THE CHAIRMAN—Perhaps you have a resident librarian. Wherever there is a resident librarian, we know libraries are liable to be taxed. Mr. Buckland may remember that a Free Library in London—in Lambeth—took a case into the court. They were sued for their rates and refused to pay. It was a library that had been carried on by subscription. I believe I am right in saying that the judge decided against his will, solely on account that they had a room which they let.

Mr. RADFORD—Some two years ago we had this question dis-

cussed. I find that the rates paid by some libraries were from £6 up to as high as £150. I find that the library of Chesterfield with £215 of income, paid out ten guineas in rates and taxes every year. Another library with an income of £720 paid £23, and another with £650 of income paid £28.

Mr. FURNISH, York—We have in our place a caretaker residing on the premises, and for the privilege of keeping a man to sleep on the premises in order to take charge of it against fire, etc., we are charged a matter of £8 a year as inhabited house duty. It seems to me that this is a very serious thing in addition to the other taxes and rates and cannot be defended on the ground of common sense, and I should like to get the experience of others. We wrote to Somerset House but we have got no relief.

Alderman Bowes, Salford—It requires the careful consideration of all library committees more than the librarians themselves. I think the meeting is indebted to Mr. Southern for the able manner in which he has brought it before the meeting. From his large experience of libraries, and his large municipal experience he can speak with authority. It is a great proof of his liberal mindedness that, being a gentleman who levies municipal rates, he is willing to exempt libraries from the same. It seems a most iniquitous thing. I know that as chairman of a committee, where we have five branch libraries, we have to watch every penny we expend. It grieves me to see these accounts for rates and taxes on five libraries which very much cripple our resources. I think not only the librarians present, but any gentleman connected with library committees will see that it is their bounden duty to take action in this matter. One has to go from home to hear news. I was not aware that Manchester was taking action in this matter. I am very glad indeed to hear it. If they want any help from their neighbours in Salford, they have only to say so.

Mr. MATHEWS, Bristol—I regret I was not here when the question with regard to Bristol was brought up. I shall be very pleased to answer it. As far as I know in Bristol there was no plea upon which they could claim exemption. One act was quoted, but it was not admitted. We considered that the £10 a year, which we were called upon to pay, was a question scarcely worth fighting against. I think the feeling was against it. We were not quite satisfied with the decision, and I think they would have been glad if they had left it alone. Some one asked me whether it was imperial or local taxation. We did not pay any local rates in Bristol, and as yet only pay the imperial taxes which amount to £10 a year.

Mr. BLORE, Chelsea—The London County Council intend to bring in a bill to have all London buildings uniformly rated. A bill was drafted by the Local Government and Taxation Committee for this purpose. At one of the meetings of this Committee a resolution was passed that all public buildings, Baths, Wash-houses, and Public Libraries should be assessed at four per cent. on the present value of the land,

and five per cent. on buildings. The Library Association have been in communication with Mr. Costelloe, the chairman of the Local Government and Taxation Board of the County Council respecting this proposed assessment. At a conference held on the 2nd August last Mr. Costelloe made the following remarks respecting a communication from Mr. MacAlister: "Gentlemen, there are one or two preliminary matters which I wanted to direct attention to before we went on to more important business. One is that we have received a communication from the Library Association of the United Kingdom in reference to certain matters that have been brought to their attention by certain of the London Public Libraries, referring of course to the resolution of this Conference as to the method on which public buildings, including libraries, were to be assessed. The communication has not been received in time for any action to be taken by the County Council upon it, but the Local Government Committee are considering what possible arrangement can be made. The resolution passed by the Association is as follows: 'That in view of the recent resolution of the County Council, by which it is proposed to assess all public buildings in the metropolis at a gross value, the attention of the Council be called to the fact that while the incomes of all other public buildings enumerated in the resolution are more or less elastic, the incomes of public libraries are strictly limited to the product of the rate (maximum one penny), and that the proposal to assess them at a gross valuation will, in many cases, mean the deprivation of the only sum at their disposal for the purchase of books. Such a step would be retrograde in the worst sense, and diametrically opposed to the County Council's progressive policy, and therefore this Association hopes that the Council will see its way to initiate legislation to exempt public libraries from the local rates.' My Committee was anxious that that communication should be brought to the notice of this Conference, in case any one desired to make any suggestion upon the matter. One suggestion occurred to myself. I state it merely to assist in the discussion, without in any way suggesting that it is the proper way to deal with the matter. It is patent to us all that the limited rate of the library raises a peculiar situation as regards any new practice of assessment, even although that may be merely carrying out what is the undoubted state of the law. In many cases we are informed that the expensive rates upon a full assessment of the library will practically take away all the money, or almost all the money, which at present remains for the purchase of books, and no doubt that is a very undesirable state of things. It occurred to me that it might be possible, by legislation of course, without disturbing the natural movement of assessment, to make an arrangement by which the rates payable upon library buildings might be paid, not out of the special library rate, but out of the general rate of the parish. Inasmuch as a large proportion of those rates goes back to the vestry itself that would have no effect except as regards the central rates in question, and as regards those central

rates, they are due, of course, by the locality in aid of the general expenses of London, and it can hardly matter whether they are paid out of the specific library rate or whether they are paid along with the general expenses. In that state of things it occurred to me that the difficulty, as regards libraries at all events, might possibly be removed in that way. I do not know whether the Conference will wish to-day, or at any other time, to take any action in that direction or in any other direction; but upon that matter, and also in regard to the assessment of baths and wash-houses which has been brought to our notice in various places, especially in the Poplar district, as being a difficult question, I do not know whether any arrangement might be made (not as regards assessments, which it is difficult to alter, but as regards the method in which the rate is to be paid and the fund out of which it is to be paid), which might obviate the apparent difficulties of the case. I merely throw that out as a suggestion, because it was the wish of my Committee that this communication with reference to libraries should be mentioned to the Conference."

Mr. MACALISTER—It would be a waste of time after the able exposition by Mr. Southern that I should read my Note on this subject. Indeed I intended to ask you, in consequence of the communication we received from him at the Council meeting the other night, to take it as read, as the main points of it dealt with the Corporation of Manchester and their proposal to take upon themselves the responsibility of testing once more the law on the subject. Therefore my somewhat prosy account of the history of this movement would really be quite useless under the circumstances. I should like, however, after the discussion is over, in order to bring the matter to a point to conclude with a definite motion; but perhaps Mr. Fovargue, our Hon. Solicitor, might give an expression of opinion on the subject. (Applause.)

Alderman BAILEY—I rise to ask a question, but before putting it, permit me to say that to my mind no more important subject can claim our attention than this which has been so ably treated by Councillor Southern. The power of this Association is enormous for it has only to say that a certain thing must be done, and it will be done. (Hear, hear.) It would be well for us to know exactly the extent of our power and influence. I should like to ask our Hon. Solicitor, when he gets up to speak, whether the Co-operative Societies Act would enable us to conduct our business without taxation. I believe that many libraries in connection with Co-operative Societies are conducted without having to pay any taxation. If we were to become Co-operative Societies would we be entitled to claim exemption? I had understood Mr. Madeley to say that at Warrington they had taken advantage of the Friendly Societies Act. I should like Mr. Madeley to give us some information on the point.

Mr. MADELEY—It will be found that Friendly Societies registered under the Act pay no local rates, but I am surprised that no reference has been made in the discussion to the question of imperial taxation. It would be interesting to know how far

that applies when the conditions are changed; at any rate, since we registered ourselves we have not paid any local taxes.

Mr. FOVARGUE—This is a very important matter. And I think those members who have got the Hand-book on legislation will find some useful notes at page 17 with regard to this very subject. There are two points which occur to my mind—I am speaking away from the report of the Bristol case—I do not know at the moment—I am not prepared to say—whether or not the rule in regard to such cases follows the rule as regards cases taken before justices, but it appears to me that in this case raised in the Divisional Court by the Income Tax Commissioners, the decision was final, unless leave was given by the court to appeal. One had only to look at the statute on the point. (A member—Is that Mr. Ewart's Act? Another member—No! No! it is the one preceding it.)

Mr. FOVARGUE—It is the statute of 1843 which sets forth that “the Society claiming exemption must be supported in whole or in part by voluntary contributions”. Now I am afraid rates are not voluntary contributions. (Laughter.) We have heard a great deal of objection to rates and I have yet to learn that they are voluntary contributions.

Mr. BARRETT—In one case at least and in a sense operative in the clause, donations of books have been admitted as constituting “voluntary contributions”.

Mr. FOVARGUE—You might claim exemption by obtaining a certificate of exemption from any English barrister appointed under the Friendly Society Act, or in Scotland from the Lord Advocate. There is a large number of libraries exempted from local rates, and that of Aberdeen is among the number, whereas in a number of other towns they are partially exempt, that is to say, the Assessment Committee only assess the building at a nominal value, which seems to me very reasonable. It is said that in some towns libraries and museums do not come under the section quoted because they are not supported wholly or in part by voluntary contributions and therefore have no legal right to claim exemption. Well, for my part I do not entertain any hope that this appeal to a higher court will be very successful, unless they are certain of this, that they come under the clause that they are supported wholly or in part by voluntary contributions. I do not know what construction the court would put upon that, as the annual contributions would be only spasmodic and occasional. I understand that Mr. MacAlister intends to suggest that the Association should bring pressure to bear upon the legislature in regard to this matter; I think that is the only hope. (Applause.)

Mr. DAVIS, Wandsworth—We had obtained a certificate, but when it was brought before the Assessment Committee they refused to accept it. They said their instructions were, under the County Council, to assess Public Libraries, and consequently they would not accept the certificate. The Commissioners on considering the matter could not see their way to go to a court of law, seeing they had no money

at their disposal. We have therefore paid rates and taxes, previously we did not pay local rates.

Mr. BALLINGER, Cardiff—We in Cardiff have been “dunned” for income tax for six or seven years, and we absolutely refused to pay, because we contended that the tax had already been paid under Schedule D. Our building was erected with money which was borrowed on the security of the rates, and for which we paid annually so much interest, and upon that interest income tax is paid, and we got exemption under Schedule A for two or three years on that ground, because the tax had been collected under another schedule. This is a point which has not been noticed here. The Aberdeen Commissioners of Supply obtained exemption on their public buildings on precisely the same grounds, that the tax had already been paid under Schedule D on the interest and therefore they were exempt under Schedule A. A case, as has been stated, had been tried, and it was decided that as the money for the erection of buildings was borrowed on the security of the rates, not on mortgage of the building (hear, hear), therefore the tax must be paid under Schedule A for the value of the building, and notwithstanding that it has already been collected under Schedule D upon the interest; so that we have in Cardiff, as doubtless they had in other towns, where your buildings have been erected with borrowed money, this anomaly,—that the Government receives the income tax twice over for the one set of buildings. Now I think that is a scandalous state of things—I think it is a great shame that advantage should be taken of a technical point like that—to levy this tax under two schedules, upon such an institution as the Public Library. Something has been said with regard to inhabited house duty, to the effect that if they had a caretaker on the premises and returned the form to the effect that the building was inhabited merely by a caretaker, they would get exemption from inhabited house duty.

A MEMBER—Not on the premises.

Mr. BALLINGER—I do not know with regard to a resident librarian, and of course you must not receive any rent for any portion of it from outside sources. The Bristol case, of course, was fought on the ground that the library was a Literary Institution within the meaning of the Act of 1843; but I will not go into that. I do say, however, that it is a very great shame that the Institution of Civil Engineers, which is a private corporation existing for the benefit of its own members, should be exempt, and literary institutions such as Public Libraries, existing for the benefit of the whole community, should be taxed. (Applause.)

Mr. MACALISTER—I am quite sure it is absolutely hopeless to look for anything from the Literary and Scientific Societies Act; seeing that the Registrar under the Act, who is a lawyer of great learning, and has a thorough grasp of law, cannot possibly register Free Libraries as exempt, I do not think there is any use in our discussing the question further. Without further preamble, I would propose the following resolution: “That this Association heartily thanks the Cor-

poration of Manchester for taking upon itself the important public service of again testing the law on the income tax question, and in the event of their failure, pledges itself to promote a bill for the exemption of Free Libraries from both imperial and local taxation". (Applause.)

Mr. CROWTHER—I have pleasure in seconding the resolution. (Applause and "agreed".) The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. MacAlister at this stage read a telegram which he had received from Lord Dufferin, in which his Lordship expressed himself as being greatly honoured in having been nominated an hon. member of the Association. He accepted the proposal with gratitude. (Applause.)

Mr. MacALISTER—I beg to move that Lord Dufferin be elected an honorary member of the Association. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN—I should like to make a suggestion with regard to two of the papers which the Hon. Secretary intended reading in the absence of the writers. When we consider the state of business, and the fact that the papers will be printed, it is hardly worth while reading them, I would respectfully suggest we pass these papers over as read, *viz.*:

Mr. A. E. Axon's on:—

THE PLACE OF LIBRARIES IN RELATION TO ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION,

And also Mr. A. W. Pollard's paper:—

ON THE EXHIBITION OF FAC-SIMILIES OF RARE BOOKS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Is it your pleasure that this be done? ["Agreed."]

Mr. Charles Madeley was then called on to open a discussion on

CHARGING SYSTEMS IN LENDING LIBRARIES.

Supplementary to the remarks contained in his paper, Mr. MADELEY, in speaking of the recording indicator said:—

From a feeling that by itself the recording indicator is not sufficient, we use it partly for security and partly for statistical purposes. On the first ground I think we are mistaken with the indicator, because if it did not, it should, give a perfect record of every transaction; and as to its use for statistical purposes I have never yet seen statistics that were worth any extra work at all. (Hear, hear.) As a matter of fact quite sufficient statistics might be obtained in other ways. The perfect book-system does not require that the book should be marked off instantly, and I know this was only claimed under certain circumstances, but we must remember there were three persons connected with the transaction; there was the borrower who had brought it in and who did not care whether it were marked off or not,

there was the borrower who was waiting for another book and who did not care if they marked that book off, and thirdly there was the man who wanted that particular book. To accommodate him it is required not only that the book be marked off instantly, but that we have the means of marking it off, if required, without disturbing ordinary procedure. Then as to fines, our friends at Manchester had no need to trouble themselves about a record to enable them to cast up the fine, because they did not impose any fines at all. (Applause.) With regard to marking off, it is not necessary to do it at the moment, but it must be done some time before the book went out again. Regarding the original deal board indicator with its rows of pegs, I would simply say that it was a disagreeable piece of work, and they knew how much time and trouble it involved. If a book is out of use the borrower's card system did not give any assistance whatever in connection with the books temporarily out of use. As to accidents I may say that the whole working of the library often depends on the frequency with which they occur. They were sometimes due to the peculiar habits of the inhabitants of the town. I would like the discussion to be conducted from an academical point of view. We are apt to look at it rather from a personal standpoint. Speaking from my own experience I had for a number of years applied myself to certain given methods, but these had been discarded under changed circumstances for more improved and totally different systems, which were more adapted to the particular circumstances. Our judgment of any given case should depend upon our knowledge of what system worked well under our own management, and suited the peculiar circumstances of our own respective libraries. (Applause.)

Mr BARRETT—It may appear somewhat presumptuous for one not in charge of a lending library to speak on this question, but I think it is desirable perhaps to indicate what should be shown in a charging system. There are several things which I think should be shown. I think there should be the means of knowing each day's issue, that is to say, it should be on permanent record what books have been given out on any given day. Further I think there should be a permanent record of the borrowers' reading, and also a permanent record of those borrowers in whose hands each book has been. I further am of opinion that the dual system should enable the librarian at once to say what book the borrower has in his possession. Whether these points should be combined in any system of charging which shall not be too complicated for actual work is rather for those who have charge of large circulating issues to determine. With regard to the Public Library in Edinburgh, I am informed that during the first year the issues were about 3000 volumes in a day, or between 17,000 and 18,000 in a week. This is an enormous business to transact. (Hear, hear.) The only other thing I would refer to is to express my great regret that Mr. Madeley spoke so disrespectfully of the "deal board," seeing that I was responsible for it. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. FORMBY — One word on the historical portion of the "indicator references". I remember Mr. Barrett's indicator in use at Birmingham a good many years since, but I wish also to name one devised by Mr. Charles Dyall, now curator of our Liverpool Walker Art Gallery, but at that time in charge of one of the Manchester Branch Free Libraries. The date was about March, 1863, more than thirty years ago. He claims, I believe, that this was one of the first, if not actually the *first* indicator invented. No doubt it was comparatively a very crude affair, but still the germ of the indicator idea was there. It is referred to by Mr. Yates of Leeds in a paper read before the Association at Oxford in October, 1878. It was also noticed and described in the *Manchester Guardian* in the early part of 1863.

THE CHAIRMAN — We should give Mr. Barrett every honour he deserves. (Applause.) As Mr. Sayle's paper on

THE VATICAN LIBRARY

is eminently fitted for quiet perusal rather than discussion, I will ask the author's permission to take it as read, seeing the time for closing the meeting has already arrived. (Mr. Sayle agreed to this.)

Mr. LANCASTER—As my paper on Book Exhibitions in Public Libraries is already printed and has been read by a number of the members, I would ask that it also be held as read. (Agreed.)

Mr. E. R. Norris Mathews was then called on to read his paper on:—

A CENTURY AGO: SOME BORROWERS AND THE BOOKS THEY BORROWED.

No discussion followed the reading of Mr. Mathews' paper.

On the suggestion of the Chairman, four scrutineers were appointed to count the votes in connection with the election of Vice-Presidents members of Council, etc.

VOTES OF THANKS.

THE CHAIRMAN—I would now call on Mr. Barrett to propose votes of thanks to our hosts who have been so generous to us.

Mr. BARRETT—I must confess my regret that this important duty has not been committed to some one who would have done it better justice. It is my duty to propose that the very grateful and hearty thanks of the Association be offered to our hosts in Aberdeen. (Applause.) In the first place to the Lord Provost, Magistrates and members of Town Council for the very gracious welcome they accorded to us on the morning of our first meeting, and for their marked hospitality to us in the Town Hall. (Applause.) I have to ask also

the thanks of the Association to the distinguished Principal of the University and the other University Authorities for the free use of the buildings of Marischal College—the stately hall for our first meeting and the very convenient room for subsequent meetings—and the spacious writing-room downstairs. (Applause.) And also for the very kind reception we received at King's College, at their hands, and the considerate preparation they had made for our comfort. (Applause.) I must not omit to mention Dr. Jamieson for his kindness and his very interesting address. (Applause.) I have further to ask that our best thanks be extended to the Committee of the Public Library of Aberdeen who joined in inviting us to Aberdeen, and have done so much to make our stay in the city most agreeable and profitable. (Applause.) For myself I must say that I visited the Public Library with great pleasure indeed (Hear, Hear, and Applause) and although our expectations had been pitched perhaps a little high, I am quite sure that the actual realisation has been more than anything we could have expected or anticipated. (Hear, hear.) I beg to move with all heartiness that we accord the best thanks of the Association to our hosts in Aberdeen. (Loud applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN—This motion has been carried by acclamation. (Cheers.)

Mr. SOUTHERN—In the absence of Mr. Lane-Joynt I have very great pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Local Reception Committee. I am sure we have no need to fear comparisons between the receptions we have had in Aberdeen and those of other places. (Hear, hear.) The Reception Committee have catered admirably for the comfort and convenience of the Association and I think we shall go away from Aberdeen with very pleasant associations of the Granite City. (Applause.) I beg to propose we extend our most cordial thanks to the Reception Committee. (Applause.)

Mr. WRIGHT—In addition to what has been said by previous speakers I would ask the Association to return their most hearty thanks to the Lord Provost and Mrs. Stewart for their kindly hospitality and for their invitation to visit Banchory House, and also to the Most Noble the Marquis of Huntly and Lady Huntly, and Sir William and Lady Brooks of Glen Tana for their kind invitations. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN—There is yet another vote of thanks that we must accord, and that is to our distinguished President. (Loud applause.) I have personally felt it a great honour to preside in the absence of Dr. Garnett to-day; an honour for which I am very grateful. Nothing could have been more satisfactory than the manner in which Dr. Garnett has discharged his various duties. His comments on the papers were exceedingly pertinent and very instructive, and he has laid the Association under a very deep and lasting obligation, which I propose we recognise by extending to him our warmest thanks. (Loud applause.)

Mr. MACALISTER—May I ask you to consider for one moment, and sanction the adoption of a proposition. Last night we had before us two or three very important proposals by Mr.

Mason, the main principles of which were objected to, however, and consequently rejected, at least as regards the first of them. A portion of one of the resolutions will, I think, appeal with great force to every member. Ever since I remember we have had to wait for the nomination papers coming in at the last moment. Now two or three lines of Mr. Mason's second resolution would put an end to this. The portion of the resolution I would like to see carried is as follows: "The election of officers and Council shall be conducted by ballot, upon the list, which shall include all nominations put to the Secretary at least ten days before the Annual Meeting. Each nomination must be assented to in writing by at least three members of the Association." If the Chairman will allow of this motion coming before the meeting Mr. Mason will be very willing to move what I have read, as a resolution by itself, leaving out all that follows, and were this carried we should see then the last of this rush at the last moment.

THE CHAIRMAN—Any observations? Well, I take it that we accept this as a motion, and if you think fit I will put it that you approve of the suggestion of Mr. Mason. (Applause and "Agreed.")

The resolution was then adopted.

The proceedings were then brought to a close.

In the afternoon most of the members accepted the invitation of Lord Provost Stewart to a garden party at Banchory House. The company left Marischal College in wagonettes shortly after two o'clock, and arrived at the residence of the Lord Provost after nearly an hour's drive. The route taken was along Regent Quay, in order that an opportunity might be afforded of seeing the harbour, and thence along the river side to the Bridge of Dee. At Banchory House Lord Provost and Mrs. Stewart extended a cordial welcome to the visitors, among whom were many of the leading citizens of Aberdeen, including the members of the Town Council and the Harbour Commissioners, most of whom were accompanied by their wives. Under the genial guidance of Lord Provost and Mrs. Stewart the company were shown over Banchory House and grounds, and excellent recreation and amusement were provided. Tea, coffee, and other refreshments were served in a marquee erected on the lawn in front of the house.

ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner of the Association was held in the evening in the Grand Hotel. There were about 100 ladies and gentlemen present. Dr. Garnett, President of the Association, occupied the chair, and he

was supported on the right, in addition to ladies, by Mr. George Walker, Aberdeen; Professor MacWilliam, Aberdeen; Mr. Wright, Plymouth; Alderman Bailey, Salford; Mr. A. O. Gill of Fairfield; Mr. William Watt, editor of the *Free Press*; and Councillor Southern, Manchester; and on the left by Professors Trail, Stewart, and Kennedy; Mr. A. S. Cook, Aberdeen; Mr. Lane-Joynt, Dublin; Mr. H. R. Tedder, Hon. Treasurer; and Mr. MacAlister, Hon. Secretary. Among the other local gentlemen present were Mr. W. L. Taylor, Peterhead, and Mr. John Minto, Assistant Librarian, Aberdeen.

Covers having been removed, and the toast of "The Queen" having been loyally honoured, the Chairman expressed regret that the Lord Provost and Mrs. Stewart were unable to be present, but sent their warmest wishes for the prosperity of the Association. (Applause.)

Alderman Bailey, Salford, proposed "The City of Aberdeen," and Sir William Henderson replied.

Mr. W. Lane-Joynt, Dublin, proposed "The University of Aberdeen and the Literature of Scotland," and Professor Stewart replied.

Mr. Tedder, London, and Mr. Mason, London—a native of Aberdeen proposed "The Reception Committee," the latter remarking he was proud his native city had so gladly welcomed the Association, and Mr. George Walker and Mr. John Minto acknowledged; and the Secretary (Mr. MacAlister) read a letter from Mr. Robertson, Librarian, expressing his keen regret that he was unable to be present.

Mr. Charles Sayle, London, proposed the health of "The Ladies," and Miss James gracefully replied.

Professor Trail then asked the company to drink the health of "Dr. and Mrs. Garnett," referring to the high position which he occupied as a Librarian and as an author.

Dr. Garnett acknowledged the toast, and said he would look back with pleasure and satisfaction to his visit to Aberdeen.

The company thereafter broke up, the Secretary previously intimating the result of the election of officers and Council.

EXCURSION TO GLEN TANA.

FRIDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 1893.

This brought the proceedings of the three-days' Congress to a very pleasing conclusion, and, it may be said, was the means of still further enhancing the favourable impressions of "Bon-Accord" and its neighbourhood already formed by the members. Accompanied by many ladies and other friends, the members of the Association travelled to Aboyne by special train shortly after ten o'clock in the forenoon. On arriving there, the company immediately mounted

several four-in-hands and brakes and made the journey to Glen Tana, ~~via~~ the south bank of the Dee, and then along the south bank of the Tana. A very pleasant drive was enjoyed, and many of the visitors, more especially those hailing from different parts of England, were lavish in their appreciation of the charming scenery passed through. At the Haugh of Braeline, Sir William Cunliffe Brooks was introduced to Dr. Garnett, the President of the Association, and, amid cheers, Sir William gave the party a right cordial welcome. The irrigation works and the chapel of Glen Tana were first visited, and the many interesting features associated with both were related by Sir William in his own peculiarly attractive and entertaining manner. The mansion house of Glen Tana was then entered, where Lady Brooks received her guests. For nearly an hour the visitors wandered through the large and artistically furnished rooms, and the numerous objects of interest, including not a few magnificent pictures, were admiringly scanned. At half past one o'clock, the company sat down to a sumptuous lunch, provided by Sir William and Lady Brooks. After some felicitous remarks from Sir William Brooks and Dr. Garnett the party proceeded, under the guidance of Sir William, to make a tour of the kennels and other features of the property of Glen Tana, after which the company left for Aboyne Castle. At the castle the visitors were shown over the building and grounds, and before leaving, tea was served in one of the large rooms. Aboyne Station was reached about five o'clock, and Aberdeen at half-past six.

SATURDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1893.

A large party of the members left Aberdeen for Ballater at eight o'clock on a post-conference excursion, and proceeded by coach to Braemar, which they reached about one o'clock. During the stay there of some three hours, the party spent the time in visiting the various sights in the village and district. Luncheon was served in the course of the afternoon; and Alderman Bailey, Salford, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. John Minto, sub-librarian of the Aberdeen Public Library, for the excellent arrangements which he had made for the trip to the Deeside Highlands. The company left Braemar shortly after four o'clock, and at Ballater took train to Aberdeen, where they arrived about nine o'clock in the evening.



Report of the Proceedings of
the Seventeenth Annual Meeting
of the Library Association of
the United Kingdom, held in
the Queen's College, Belfast, on
September 4th, 5th and 6th, 1894.

*President: The Most Honourable the
MARQUESS OF DUFFERIN
and AVA, K.P., G.C.B.*

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Library Association was held in Belfast on September 4th to 6th, 1894, upon the invitation of the Lord Mayor and Corporation, conjoined with the President and Council of Queen's College, and the Chairman and Committee of the Public Libraries.

LOCAL COMMITTEE.

The Local General Committee appointed to carry out the arrangements for the reception of the Association consisted of the following gentlemen :—

Chairman.—James Henderson, Esq., M.A., J.P.

Vice-Chairman.—Joseph John Murphy, Esq.

Hon. Treasurers.—Lavens M. Ewart, Esq., J.P. ; R. M. Young Esq., C.E.

Acting Treasurer.—F. W. Moneypenny, Esq.

Hon. Secretaries.—G. H. Elliott, Esq. ; G. J. Smith, Esq. ; Professor Dr. A. L. Meissner.

Executive Committee.—The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Ballymenoch, Co. Down ; Rev. T. Hamilton, D.D., President of Queen's College, Belfast ; Professor Purser, LL.D., Queen's College, Belfast ; Professor Park, D.Lit., 3, University Square ; J. A. Lindsay, M.D., 37, Gt. Victoria Street ; Wm. Weir, Esq., Springfield House, Belfast ; R. E. Herdman, Esq. ; Wm. McCormick, Esq. ; Robert Barklie, Esq. ; Professor M. P. Fitzgerald ; Rev. Chas. Scott ; Andrew Gibson, Esq. ; John Anderson, Esq., J.P. ; James O'Neill, Esq. ; Wm. Swanston, Esq. ; F. J. Bigger, Esq. ; John Vinycomb, Esq. ; Wm. McCammond, Esq., J.P. ; J. C. Charles Payne, Esq., J.P. ; A. W. Hutton, Esq. ; S. Munro, Esq. ; Wellington Young, Esq.

The opening Meeting was held in the Library of Queen's College, at noon, on Tuesday, September 4th.

His Excellency, the President, arrived punctually, accompanied by his sons the Earl of Ava and Lord Basil Blackwood, and his private secretary Mr. J. McFerran. He was received at the College Gate by the Members of the local Committee and the Ex-President, Dr. Garnett, and the Officers and Council of the Association.

Amongst the company present on the platform or in the body of the hall, in addition to the members, were—The Lord Mayor (Mr. Wm. M'Cammond, J.P.), Earl Belmore, Sir Daniel Dixon, J.P. (ex-Lord Mayor); Sir David Taylor, J.P.; Dr. Garnett, ex-president of the Association; Revs. Dr. Hamilton (President Queen's College), Professor Todd Martin (Moderator of the General Assembly), Dr. Orr, Charles Scott, John Kinghan, David A. Taylor, Oliver M'Cutcheon, D.D. (President Methodist College); Professors Cuming, M.D.; W. J. Byers, M.D.; — Fitzgerald, C.E.; Redfern, M.D.; and A. L. Meissner; Dr. Lindsay, Dr. Walton Browne; Messrs. W. Johnston, M.P.; Thomas Sinclair, D.L.; James Henderson, J.P.; R. H. H. Baird, J.P.; Lavens M. Ewart, J.P.; John Anderson, J.P.; R. Lloyd Patterson, J.P., F.L.S.; J. C. C. Payne, J.P.; F. D. Ward, J.P.; R. M. Young, M.R.I.A.; William Gray, M.R.I.A.; Andrew Gibson, J. C. Bretland, C.E.; A. Hutton, J. Conway Scott, C.E.; Francis Curley, W. Weir, J. Vinycomb, Wellington Young, W. Gill, F. W. Moneypenny, R. Young, C.E.; W. G. Barkley, LL.D.; and W. H. Patterson, M.R.I.A.

On entering the room Lord Dufferin was most cordially received.

The LORD MAYOR said:—Your Excellency, My Lords, Ladies, and Gentlemen, it affords me great pleasure as Chief Magistrate of Belfast to extend to the Library Association of the United Kingdom and its distinguished president a cordial greeting and a hearty welcome to our city. I sincerely hope that the meetings, from a business point of view, will be a complete success, and that the programme, which, I understand, has been prepared for your delectation, will be found sufficient, and that during your short sojourn amongst us you will fully enjoy yourselves. I also hope that the discussion of the various subjects on your programme will result in benefit to the community, and that you will be able to solve hitherto unsolved problems, and will at the end of your stay carry away with you pleasant recollections of the people of Ireland, than which you cannot find a more congenial place. I shall not further detain you from your business, but will at once resign the chair to your president, who deserves well from the citizens of Belfast.

The MARQUESS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA then took the chair amidst loud applause, and was again loudly cheered as he rose to deliver the

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—When the Library Association conferred upon me the signal honour of selecting me as its president for the current year I felt bound, from conscientious scruples, to stipulate that I should not be called upon to pronounce what is conventionally denominated the inaugural address, for the simple reason that I was quite incompetent to treat the subject-matter of your deliberations, which are in some respects of a very technical character, in such a way as would satisfy the distinguished specialists who constitute the majority of the present meeting. I knew, moreover, that my only title to the occupation of this chair was my fortunate connection with Belfast and its neighbourhood—that I was, in fact, merely a geographical expression, the unlearned but enthusiastic mouthpiece of those outsiders who are aware, indeed, of the great benefits your association is conferring upon the world at large, who sympathise intelligently with your efforts, but are only imperfectly acquainted with the more abstruse arcana of your pursuits. In their name, then, I bid you heartily welcome, and I assure you that this welcome proceeds not only from a very warm-hearted community, but also from those whose watchword from earliest times has been "Progress," who have always been eager to assist every movement which is calculated to

promote the intellectual advancement of mankind, and whose industry and energy have created the mighty and prosperous city in whose midst we stand. Nor, indeed, do I know of any association, amongst the many that have been established during the course of the present century, more worthy of the respect and gratitude of thoughtful people than your own. Our libraries are the treasure-houses of the past, treasure-houses in which are deposited all the wisdom, the experience, the art, the wit, the poetry, the philosophy, the recorded achievements, the fears, the hopes, the gropings after truth which have been accumulating amongst mankind through countless generations. But not only are they the treasure-houses of the past, they are also the arsenals of the future. They furnish the "*ποῦ στῆλῃ*," the fulcrum through whose instrumentality the world of the centuries to be will be lifted to a higher level. They supply to its destined benefactors the tools with which they will have to work. But to what use could we put these vast legacies of our forefathers, these huge, unmanageable Babylons of the pen, if their contents were not analysed, co-ordinated, tabulated, subdivided, and each item placed within our reach at a moment's notice, to every man according to his need, by your learned and laborious assistance? I believe that every year Great Britain alone is overwhelmed by a recurring deluge of 7,000 new books. What would become of suffocated humanity under this visitation if you did not reach us out a helping hand? It is you who evoke order out of chaos, who convert a mob into an army, and what would otherwise be an undistinguishable heap of rubbish into well-ordered jewel chambers of lucent and clear-cut gems. Not only so, but it is you who take charge of the new-born product of the author's labouring brain from the moment when it first presents itself in the repulsive form of an illegible manuscript. It is you who teach us on what paper it should be couched, in what type it should be swaddled, in what binding clothed. You instruct us as to the arrangement of its future domicile; how our book-shelves may be best arrayed, ventilated, and kept dry; how space can be economised, and the volumes which soar to the ceiling rendered as accessible as those on the ground floor. And here I may mention that I have at Clandeboye a chair which was invented by the late Sir William Sterling Maxwell, of Keir, a most deviceful bookman, which is not only a light and ornamental piece of furniture, but also serves as a ladder and a desk without change of form or ceasing to be a chair. But, rising above these minor details and mere mechanics of your craft, you have also solved that most difficult of problems, the construction of a good catalogue—of a catalogue which at a glance enables an inquirer, without taking a wrong turn, to wander through the devious and complicated labyrinth of whatever subject may be occupying his attention. Everything that has been said or written upon the matter from the remotest ages to the present day is brought as commodiously within his reach as the keys of a piano meet the fingers of a young lady. Nor does your intervention stop here. Not only do you keep watch and ward over our citadels of learning, you also have concerned yourselves—and this perhaps is the most useful of all your achievements—with the distribution of books and the dissemination of their contents amongst the population at large through the powerful stimulus you have applied to the establishment of free and public libraries from one end of the country to the other. As a collateral consequence, you have created a new and now well-recognised profession—namely, that of the public librarian—a profession most honourable in its nature, most useful in its functions, which embraces in its ranks gentlemen of the highest attainments, and which is especially distinguished by the promptitude and courtesy with which it assists its clients along the multifarious lines of research they may be respectively following. Gentlemen, I only wish

that I could think that I were at all worthy to sound the praises of your Association. But, although a bibliophile, which is the polite term for bibliomaniac, like most of my tribe, I am not an erudite person. But, indeed, in these days who can lay claim to such an appellation? Formerly there were universal scholars who knew everything—that is to say, the sum of human knowledge was so restricted that it was possible for an industrious man in a long life to range through its utmost limits; but the “pond” of sixteenth century learning has now become an ocean, as boundless as it is unfathomable. The distinction, consequently, between the ignorant and the well-instructed man has grown more benign; for it has become merely a question of degree between our respective ignorances. The walking encyclopædias of former times have disappeared. Every branch of human endeavour and research is getting more and more specialised. Even the professions have become fissiparous,—in France almost every organ of the body has its own physicians. In short, the experts have tumbled omniscience from his throne. But on that very account it is the more necessary that we should have the means of knowing, through your intervention, where information in regard to any particular subject is to be found. Though we cannot sail over every sea or visit every shore, you provide us with the charts which facilitate our navigation, and give us at least a notion of the general configuration of the world of letters. The late Lord Derby had probably some such idea as this in his mind when he said, with his usual shrewdness, that a library in a country house should merely consist of books of reference. But, however that may be, a reverence for books, even by the unlearned, is a feeling worthy of due cultivation, and you as its priesthood should be held in the greatest honour. Nor is the world of to-day indifferent to either of these sentiments. In every country in which I have resided I have found philobiblion societies and book collectors held in the highest esteem. Nay, I myself have sometimes been treated with unwonted honour merely because I am the happy owner of what is alleged to be the smallest book in the world; while many years ago I knew in Africa a young lady who was reputed a great heiress, and was wooed and triumphantly won in that capacity, though her sole fortune consisted in the possession of a rare, or rather unique, Egyptian manuscript. On the other hand, the absence of bibliographical knowledge has sometimes led to strange results. A non-literary but obviously intelligent gentleman—a self-made man, in fact—having accidentally come across a copy of Shakespeare, ordered his bookseller to send down in his next parcel of new publications whatever fresh work might appear from the pen of the same author, as, in his opinion, he was a very entertaining fellow; while a continental capital was thrown into an uproar by one whom we all love and revere inquiring by telegraph whether her daughter, who was recovering from her confinement, had seen “Barchester Towers,” for the whole afternoon had been fruitlessly spent by chamberlains and *aides-de-camp* in a search for Dr. Towers, M.D. Had they known their Trollope properly, they would not have mistaken the title of one of his novels for the name of some eminent physician on tour. And now, with these very imperfect observations, I propose to give place to Dr. Garnett, who will far more properly than myself inaugurate the due commencement of the business of the meeting.

The LORD MAYOR said before Dr. Garnett spoke, he would ask the President of Queen's College to propose a vote of thanks to Lord Dufferin for his address.

THE PRESIDENT OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE (Rev. Thomas Hamilton, D.D., LL.D.) then rose and said:—My Lords and Gentlemen, I rise to propose that the heartiest thanks of this meeting and of the Library As-

sociation should be given to Lord Dufferin for the admirable address with which he has just favoured us. It seems to me that among the many things on which the Association is to be congratulated to-day there is this first and foremost—that it has had the good fortune to secure as its President for the Belfast meeting a nobleman whom we all admire, and whom, I think, I may also add, we all love, so much as the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava. We welcome the Association to Belfast of course for its own sake, because, as Lord Dufferin has truly told us, it occupies a most important position in the world of books, and is doing work without which we should be all distinctly the poorer. But I think I may say, on behalf of the people of this city, that we welcome it doubly because it comes to us with the noble Marquess at its head. All Irishmen are proud of Lord Dufferin, but we in this north-east corner of the island claim a very special interest and property in him, and I am quite sure that you who are assembled here this morning will allow me, in your name, to extend to him a very hearty welcome on this his first appearance in public in Ireland after his return from the performance of his difficult and important duties in France. He deserves and must need a holiday, and I hope he will enjoy it to the full. Lord Dufferin has told us that he does not regard himself as possessing any very special fitness for the position of President of this Society, but I think in the address which he has given us he has himself refuted that statement most abundantly. He has shown us that he knows more than a good many of us of the technicalities with which this Association specially deals, that he is well acquainted with the mysteries of cataloguing, and even with the best construction of library ladders. Lord Dufferin, however, has enriched our libraries in a much more important way. He has found leisure amid the distractions of an unusually busy life to produce books which we have all read with the keenest relish, and which I am perfectly certain our literature will not willingly let die. I myself remember—now a long time ago—the delight with which I first read his *Letters from High Latitudes*, and we cannot but be reminded by his presence among us to-day of that last contribution of his to our literature in which many of us have been revelling, and in which one scarcely knows whether more to admire the exquisite setting in which he has given us the lovely lyrics of his mother or the beautiful and undying affection in which the memory of that mother has been enshrined by her son, more than a quarter of a century after she has passed from the world. Lord Dufferin has to-day given us an address which has not surprised us, because it is just such an address as we expected he would deliver—an address characterised by all that freshness and soundness of thought, that beauty of style, that grace of delivery, and that appropriateness to the occasion which invariably characterise all his public utterances. I therefore feel every confidence in proposing that this meeting and this Association convey to him our heartiest thanks.

Sir DANIEL DIXON said he had much pleasure in seconding that vote of thanks. They were all very glad to see Lord Dufferin in their midst, and he was sure that his presence would add greatly to the success of the meetings.

The vote was accorded by acclamation and was tendered by the LORD MAYOR in appropriate terms.

LORD DUFFERIN said,—Ladies and gentlemen, although after having already occupied so much of your attention I am unwilling to interpose further between you and the regular business of the meeting, it would indeed be a heart of stone which could refuse to recognise with unspeakable gratitude the delightful reception you have been good enough to give me on this occasion. Nor can I find words in which to express my gratitude to the President of the Queen's College for the most touching allusion which he has made to a book which I have had the happiness of recently edit-

ing—an allusion conveyed in words so delicate and so agreeable to my feelings that it is probably the greatest reward that I shall ever receive from those recent labours. I can assure you that I am a very unwilling exile from my own home and from the North of Ireland, and that there is not a day which passes when I am engaged in the service of my country abroad that I do not reflect with pleasure that ere long I shall be able to return and finish my days amongst those who were the friends of my youth, and who during the whole length of my career have never failed to extend to me not only their confidence, not only their encouragement and approval, but unmistakable proofs of their warm regard and affection. That affection and regard I fully reciprocate, and it is a delight to me to observe on each of my recurring visits to Belfast and its neighbourhood the extraordinary marks of improvement and of advancement in every direction which are visible on all hands. Ladies and gentlemen, from the very bottom of my heart I thank you for the kind reception you have given me. It is now my pleasing duty to move that a vote of thanks be accorded by this meeting to the chief magistrate of this city. It has been during my absence that the city of Belfast has acquired its recent dignity, and I have heard on all hands that there has never been a magistrate in this town who has supported that dignity with greater propriety, with greater satisfaction to his clients and to the whole of the community over which he presides, than the gentleman who has now the honour of filling the office of Lord Mayor. It is evident to me, who am able quickly to appreciate what is the feeling of a public meeting, that the Lord Mayor is extremely popular amongst you. It is unnecessary for me that I should add further words in support of the vote of thanks which I now call upon you to give.

Mr. JAMES HENDERSON, chairman of the local reception committee, seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

LORD DUFFERIN, in conveying the compliment, said, I have the honour, in the name of this distinguished company, to present you with the vote of thanks which has just been carried by acclamation.

The LORD MAYOR, in responding, said he thanked Lord Dufferin most sincerely for his very kind words in proposing that vote of thanks to himself, and he was also obliged to his good friend Mr. Henderson for seconding the motion, and to all present for the very hearty and enthusiastic way in which they had received it. He could assure them that the position in which he was placed that day was a very pleasant and a most honourable one, and he could inform Lord Dufferin that the citizens of Belfast had one and all supported him since he had the honour of presiding as chief magistrate of that city. Wherever it was his good fortune to meet with his fellow-citizens he was ably supported by them, so that his duties were made very light indeed, and became really a labour of love.

An address was then delivered by Dr. RICHARD GARNETT, Ex-President of the Association. (*See LIBRARY, Vol. VI., p. 299.*)

Mr. R. LLOYD PATTERSON, President of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society, said he wished on behalf of his society to inform members of the association that the council offered members access to their library and museum. The museum contained a very considerable and important collection of local interest, and it was specially rich in the possession of very valuable Irish antiquarian and archæological objects. They hoped that during their stay in Belfast the museum would be largely visited by the members.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister) on behalf of the Council proposed that the following ladies and gentlemen and institutions be elected members of the Association :—

Blackpool Public Library.
 Devon and Exeter Institution.
 Dundalk Public Library.
 England, E. E., Library Assistant, Canning Town Library, Barking Road, E.
 English, Stephanie P., Library Assistant, 28, Chalmers Street, Edinburgh.
 Guppy, H., 27, Childebert Road, Balham.
 Hatcher, S. A., Library Assistant, West Ham Central Library, Broadway, Stratford.
 Hunt, T. W., Borough Librarian, Devonport.
 Johnson, W., Roe Lane, Southport.
 Midland Railway Institute, Derby.
 Plunkett, The Count, 26, Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin.
 South Shields Public Library.
 Sarjant, J. A., Public Free Library, Town Hall, Buxton.
 Tollfree, I. W., 54, Mostyn Road, N. Bow, E.

This was seconded by Mr. HENRY R. TEDDER, the Hon. Treasurer, and carried unanimously.

Mr. MACALISTER read the following letter, which he had just received from His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin :—

CLANDEBOYE,
September 4, 1894.

DEAR MR. MACALISTER,—I am so disappointed at not being able to avail myself of your kind invitation to this morning's meeting.

I had quite hoped to be present, but at the last moment I am unexpectedly and unavoidably prevented from so doing.

Yours faithfully,
 PLUNKET DUBLIN.

The PRESIDENT then called upon Mr. Robert M. Young, M.R.I.A., to read the first paper on the programme :—

AN ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE NOTABLE BOOKS PRINTED
 IN BELFAST.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 135.)

Mr. Young's paper pointed out that Belfast has the unique privilege in Ireland of possessing a catalogue of its early printed books, which it owes to the zeal of Mr. John Anderson, J.P., the esteemed honorary secretary of the Linen Hall Library. Mr. Young gave a most interesting description of some of the productions of Belfast presses since the year 1700.

The various books mentioned in the foregoing paper were shown during the week in the Queen's College. They were arranged by Mr. Andrew Gibson and Mr. R. M. Young.

The PRESIDENT next called upon Mr. G. H. Elliott, Chief Librarian of the Belfast Public Library, to read a paper entitled :—

OUR READERS AND WHAT THEY READ.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 276.)

He enumerated the trades and professions of borrowers most largely represented in the community, book-keepers or clerks heading the list ; in the learned professions solicitors and their apprentices head the list. The classes of books most issued were Prose Fiction 61·20 per cent. of the whole of the classes, Juvenile Literature 18·36 per cent., History and

Biography 47·2 per cent., Arts, Sciences and Natural History closely following. He cited the names of the books most in demand in each class, and concluded with some class percentages of issue in a few other public libraries.

Mr. MACALISTER announced that on the following days the Meetings would begin at 9.30 a.m., instead of 10 as stated in Programmes.

The Meeting then adjourned.

LUNCHEON.

After the adjournment the members proceeded to the Exhibition Hall Botanic Gardens, and here they were entertained at luncheon by the local Committee. Mr. James Henderson, J.P., presided, as Chairman of the Committee, and among those supporting him were—on the right, the Earl of Belmore and Sir Daniel Dixon, J.P.; and on the left, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, the President of the Queen's College (Rev. Dr. Hamilton), the Moderator of the General Assembly (Rev. Professor Todd Martin), Sir David Taylor, J.P., and Mr. William Johnston, M.P. The attendance was very large, and included many ladies. Grace was said by the Moderator of the General Assembly. During luncheon Mr. Millon's string band discoursed a charming selection of music. After luncheon, the Chairman briefly proposed the toast of "the Queen," and the loyal sentiment was enthusiastically received, the company joining in singing with heartiness a verse of the National Anthem.

The members of the association and their friends then left the hall, and re-entering the college grounds were photographed in a group by Mr. W. J. Kilpatrick, of Donegall Place.

VISIT TO THE GIANT'S RING.

A large number of well-equipped brakes were requisitioned, and the accommodation provided was taxed to its utmost capacity, for the brilliant weather induced all who could conveniently do so to embrace the opportunity of a country drive. A start was made from the front of the Queen's College about 3.30. The drive along the Malone Road was greatly enjoyed. Shaw's Bridge was speedily reached and crossed, and ere long the party dismounted at the foot of the path leading to the Giant's Ring. Ascending this path, the visitors climbed the raised mound or parapet of earth, upwards of eighty feet in breadth at the base and of considerable height, which encloses the enormous circle or ring, the diameter of which is about 500 feet, and after walking along the greater portion of this mound descended into the ring and assembled around the cromlech familiarly known as the Druid's Altar, which stands practically in the centre. Mr. William Gray, M.R.I.A., then took up his position on the highest stone of the cromlech and gave a racy and entertaining description of the "altar" and the circle itself. The account was not too technical, and it abounded in flashes of Hibernian humour. Mr. Gray pointed out that rude stone monuments of such a character as the cromlech were very numerous in Ireland, and were now generally believed to indicate the burial place of great chiefs. He expressed the opinion that the height of the encircling parapet must have been considerably reduced in the lapse of time. At the conclusion of the description

a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Gray, on the motion of Dr. Garnett, seconded by Mr. W. H. K. Wright (Plymouth). The party subsequently re-entered the brakes and returned to the city, where the works of Messrs. Marcus Ward & Co., Limited, and the Free Public Library were visited.

THE CONVERSAZIONE.

In the evening the Local Committee entertained the members and a large number of guests at a conversazione in the Queen's College. This gathering was regarded as the chief social function of the visit, and every effort was made by the committee to ensure its success. That this object was achieved was admitted by all who were privileged to be present. The task of making the arrangements for the gathering were mainly left in the hands of Mr. F. W. Moneypenny. The whole of the spacious main block of buildings were given over for the purposes of the conversazione. In addition to this the cloisters, which had been boarded in and decorated, formed an agreeable promenade ground. This is the first occasion on which they have been used for this purpose at a conversazione, and, judging from the manner in which they were utilised, there can be no doubt that on the occasion of similar gatherings in future they will be again brought into requisition. In the examination hall there were ranged oil portraits of the founders and extenders of the city, lent for the occasion by the Belfast Corporation, Messrs. J. C. C. Payne, J.P., W. H. Drennan, and James Thompson. A series of early maps of Ireland and Belfast, lent by the Countess of Shaftesbury, Mr. Lavens M. Ewart, J.P., the Belfast Water Commissioners, and others, was exhibited. There was also in this room a case of specimens, illustrating linen manufacture, lent by Mr. William Swanston, F.G.S. There was also a very large and interesting collection of Belfast printed books; while to Burns' admirers and students Mr. Andrew Gibson's collection of the Scottish bard's works, most of them very rare and in a splendid state of preservation, proved of unbounded interest. Mr. Gibson also exhibited a copy of the exceptionally rare reprint of the "Skirving Burns," the original of which is stated to be in the possession of Sir Theodore Martin. Only twelve copies were made, one of them being in the possession of her Majesty the Queen. There was also in this section a portrait of a granddaughter and great granddaughter of the poet, now resident in the south of Ireland. Mr. R. M. Young exhibited an illustrated copy of his edition of the Town Book of Belfast. Messrs. Marcus Ward and Company had arranged an exhibition on their own premises, and they had kindly invited the Association to inspect their works, but, by special request, Mr. Francis D. Ward, J.P., exhibited in the council room specimens of the new process of colour printing. In the council-room and museum there was a collection illustrative of the catalogue of early Belfast printed books, by Mr. John Anderson, F.G.S., exhibited by the Free Public Library, the Queen's College Library, the Linen Hall Library, Mr. Lavens M. Ewart, Mr. R. M. Young, Mr. W. Swanston, and others; Ulster poetry, lent by Mr. F. J. Bigger, M.R.I.A.; early printed books and MSS., lent by Mr. Robert Young, C.E.; Dean Swift's bookcase, lent by Messrs. M'Coy & Sons. The Photo-Chromatic Printing Company exhibited examples of the new photo-chromatic printing in three colours, collotype printing, half-tone process blocks. Here also Mr. J. Vinycomb, M.R.I.A., exhibited thirty-six cases of ecclesiastical and municipal seals, one frame of old book plates, one frame of modern book plates. In the vestibule, Mr. Seaton F. Milligan showed a collection of Irish antiquities shown at Chicago; Messrs. W. & G. Baird showed some specimens of artistic

bookbinding. In the natural philosophy room Mr. Joseph and Mr. John Carey showed a panorama of Belfast and the vicinity; and in the chemical room adjoining there was a lantern exhibition of old Belfast, under the charge of Messrs. J. Marshall and W. J. Allen.

The committee had invited some six hundred guests, and with the members of the Association and their friends, there were nearly a thousand persons present. The guests commenced to arrive shortly before eight o'clock, and were received in the corridor by Mr. James Henderson, J.P., chairman of the local committee; Mrs. James Henderson, the Lord Mayor (Mr. William M'Cammond, J.P.), and Mrs. Todd, and the members of the local committee. In the Examination Hall the band of the 2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment, under the direction of Mr. W. J. Stevens, performed a selection of music at intervals during the evening. At a quarter to nine an excellent concert was given in the Examination Hall.

A special interest was given to the function by the presence of the Marquess of Dufferin and a large party from Clandeboye. Lord Dufferin, who wore the sash of the Order of St. Patrick and the grand cross of the Order of the Bath, was accompanied by the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, the Earl of Ava, Lord Basil Blackwood, the Honourable W. L. and Lady Victoria Plunket, Lady Hermione Blackwood, Miss E. Plunket, and Miss O. Plunket. They were conducted into the reception corridor by the president of Queen's College, and were received by the Lord Mayor and chairman of the reception committee. Subsequently Lady Dufferin was conducted round the various departments by Mr. MacAlister, the honorary secretary, whilst Mr. F. W. Moneypenny acted as guide to the other members of the Clandeboye party.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH.

The second day's proceedings commenced in the Library at the Queen's College about ten o'clock. Mr. W. Lane Joynt, D.L., of Dublin, was called to the chair, on the motion of the Hon. Secretary, and the reading of papers was at once proceeded with.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. JOHN VINYCOMB, M.R.I.A., Belfast, to read

A FEW WORDS ON EX LIBRIS, AND MARKS OF OWNERSHIP IN BOOKS.

The collection and study of bookplates was treated as a recognised pursuit, and the author spoke of their character and of some of the artists who produced them. He gave some very quaint excerpts from book labels illustrative of the importance of bookplates to owners of books.

Mr. W. H. K. WRIGHT (Plymouth) said he thought the members were indebted to Mr. Vinycomb for his paper. The subject of book-plates was an interesting one, but he did not think they should discuss it now at any length, as there were so many other subjects which were of more immediate importance to librarians.

Mr. H. R. TEDDER (London) briefly supported the remarks of the previous speaker.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. WILLIAM GRAY, M.R.I.A., to read

OUR PUBLIC LIBRARY, ITS ORIGIN AND OBJECT. (LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 233.)

This gave a brief account of some of the local institutions and sketched the circumstances which led to the adoption of the Public Libraries Act

in 1882. He then urged as a necessity the question of having a composite library committee, composed of members of the Town Council and others representing the several local societies for the promotion of literature, science and art, pointing out that with such a committee they would have an organisation best qualified to secure public sympathy and support, capable of maintaining and developing a central municipal educational institute as an effective agency for the intellectual advancement of the people.

Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSTON, M.P., said he desired, as one of the parliamentary representatives of Belfast, and as the member within whose constituency the Library Association was now meeting, to express their deep sense of the obligation they owed to Mr. Gray for his persistent efforts in bringing about the establishment of a public library in Belfast. To no man more than to him, or as much as to him, were the thanks of Belfast owing, and he was sure they would be cordially given for his unwearied exertions and the great energy he had shown in the matter. Belfast welcomed the Library Association, as they had heard in the able and eloquent address of the President on the previous day, and in the cordial greetings of the Lord Mayor, and he expressed the earnest hope that at some future time the association would return to see the progress made by Belfast in carrying out its objects and developing its aims. The Public Library which had been established there would, he was sure, be the means of educating the citizens of Belfast in those higher literary attainments, which it was essential that a progressive and prosperous city like that should always keep in view. He had the honour of having his name on the Public Libraries Act, which had become the law of the land during the recent session, and also of serving on the Library Select Committee which met in the House of Commons this year, and any assistance he could give at any time for the developing of the objects of the Association or carrying out of its aims would be most cordially given. He thought they should try and get copies of all parliamentary documents issued, all blue-books, and all reports of historical manuscripts, and reports of committees given by the House of Commons or by Act of Parliament to the various public libraries in the United Kingdom. He would be extremely glad to co-operate in any efforts made to bring about that object, because it was exceedingly desirable that such publications, some of which were of great interest, should be placed at the disposal of such valuable institutions as public libraries. In conclusion, Mr. Johnston expressed his cordial thanks to Mr. Gray for his exertions on behalf of the Belfast Library, and repeated that he would be glad to do anything he could to further the interests of the library, or to assist its courteous librarian, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. J. J. OGLE (Bootle), said he thought Mr. Gray's paper was a model one, and it would prove useful to those who were thinking of applying the Libraries Act.

Mr. GRAY, in replying to the previous speakers, agreed with Mr. Johnston's suggestions that documents published by the Government should be deposited in public libraries. They all knew that in some of the publishing departments of the Crown there were hundreds of documents lying on musty shelves, unused by the public although paid for by the taxpayers in general. They were unutilised because the cost of them was too much for the public. All such documents published at the public expense ought to be deposited in public libraries. Although Belfast was so very long in getting up their library building, from the time of its inception to the time of its realisation several towns in Ireland had adopted the Public Libraries Act in consequence of their action in Belfast, and he was proud to say that they were the leaders of Dublin and Cork. That showed the good result of working out thoroughly of a fad like theirs.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. M. COMERFORD, Dundalk, to read a paper, entitled

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE DUNDALK FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, BEING THE FIRST ESTABLISHED IN IRELAND UNDER THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES (IRELAND) ACT, 1855.

He said the Public Libraries Act (Ireland) 1855, was unanimously adopted in Dundalk in 1856, and in the month of January, 1858, a free public library was opened, thereby placing Dundalk in the unique position of being the first town or city in Ireland to have a free public library. The library is supported and maintained by a penny rate, with an additional penny per week subscribed by the readers who borrow the books for home reading. About 700 volumes were handed to the Free Library Committee, at the opening, from the Mechanics' Institute. The number has now increased to 8,000 volumes, although the entire income does not amount to £150 yearly. Schools of Science and Art were established in connection with the library shortly after it opened, but these had to be abandoned for want of funds. The Committee, however, are now negotiating for premises which were formerly used as Endowed Schools, and should they succeed in getting them, through the influence of Lord Roden and others, provided funds are forthcoming, the Free Libraries, Museums and Technical Schools Acts can be fully put into operation. Dundalk is a seaport town, midway between Dublin and Belfast, and a centre of industry which has increased its population on last census by 2,500, therefore the acquisition of a good Free Library and Technical Schools will be a great advantage to the rising generation.

The CHAIRMAN discussed the paper, expressing his high appreciation of the usefulness of such a paper.

The HON. SECRETARY read a letter of apology for non-attendance from Mr. J. D. Mullins, one of the vice-presidents, and it was agreed that this should be entered on the minutes.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. POTTER BRISCOE, librarian of the Nottingham Public Libraries, to read a paper, entitled

HALF-HOUR TALKS ABOUT BOOKS WITH LIBRARY READERS.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 18.)

He said in twelve of the Nottingham Reading Rooms, during the last four seasons, this scheme had proved so successful that he recommended his brother librarians to adopt it, not in place of literary lectures, where such were given, but as auxiliary, or when the larger scheme cannot be carried out. The object is to awaken an interest in literary subjects, and not to satisfy. These talks are given in a conversational style, without any re-arrangement of the furniture, by both ladies and gentlemen—the librarian occasionally giving one. The chairman is known as “the introducer.” Literature bearing on the subject is always found upon the shelves of the room in which the talk is given.

In the discussion which ensued, Messrs. Robert Bowes (Cambridge), G. H. Humphrey (London), Thomas Formby (Liverpool), R. K. Dent (Aston Manor), Radford (Nottingham), W. E. Doubleday (London), F. S. Herne (Leicester), W. Gray (Belfast), and James Yates (Leeds) took part.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Mr. Jos. Gilburt, of Day's Library, London, to read a paper, entitled :—

AFTER US: SOME LIBRARY DEVELOPMENTS TO BE LOOKED FOR IN THE FUTURE.

He said, the art or science of *accessibility* was of importance enough to be worthy of a professorial chair in the future. He recommended

attractiveness in catalogues which might be made entertaining even to the verge of humour. Various developments in the future were mentioned which individual librarians, and the *Royal Library Association of the United Kingdom*, might carry out "After us."

The CHAIRMAN, in commenting upon the paper, said allusion had been made in it to Lord Dufferin's latest book. The volume recently issued by his Excellency was one of the most touching proofs of the affection which existed between the noble Lord and his mother, and of her excellent and noble character. When he bought the book recently he performed an operation which in early days was not uncommon to him—he sat up at night until he had finished it. It was impossible to read it without being touched with the beauty of the late Lady Dufferin's character and of the family character of the Sheridans. He was one of those who, without having seen her or known her, were under an obligation to Lady Dufferin, for he once had an attachment to a very handsome lady, but when he read her ladyship's song, "Never marry a charming woman," he became a sensible man, took her advice, and followed a different plan altogether. They would see, therefore, that Lady Dufferin even in song, and in exquisite song, had taught lessons. She taught them all about the Irish emigrant with a touch of tenderness and pathos which even Campbell in the finest of all his songs never surpassed. "The Exile of Erin" was known to all of them, but Lady Dufferin's poem was as touching and as excellent an homage to the exile's affection for his country. It was an immortal honour to Lord Dufferin that one of his last productions should be a biography so beautiful that when he (the chairman) closed it late in the morning he could not but think—although he had read Southey's biographies, which were among the best—that a more excellent book of the kind had never been put before the public. He hoped every librarian present would secure half a dozen copies for the perusal of his readers, for neither young nor old could read it without being improved and edified by the splendid talents it uncovered, and by the devotion of Lord Dufferin's life to his mother. If he might have been critical it would have been when reading the book before it was published. His Lordship had selected a very excellent sonnet from Browning as a prologue to the book, but he thought he could have told Lord Dufferin where he would have found a suitable prologue in an Irish poet who had composed as beautiful verses as Lady Dufferin, and who wrote "The Burial of Sir John Moore." If his Excellency wanted a second motto—he did not mean that he should expunge the first—let him borrow it from Wolfe, and say—

"For there was round her such a dawn
Of light, ne'er seen before,
As fancy never could have drawn,
And never can restore."

Mr. YATES (Leeds), reminded the members that the present Marchioness of Dufferin had published a book entitled "Lispings from Low Latitudes," which, he was sure, would be enjoyed by all who read it.

At this point Mr. Joynt was obliged to leave the meeting owing to another engagement, and the chair was taken by Alderman Rawson (Manchester).

He called upon Mr. J. P. EDMOND, librarian to the Earl of Crawford, to read—

A PLEA FOR PRIVATE LIBRARIES.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 211.)

The paper pointed out the ways in which private libraries may supplement the work of public libraries, and to show that by their means

work can be accomplished which lies outside of the sphere of the rate-supported or endowed institutions. Public libraries are fettered in two ways, viz., by poverty, and by having to preserve a due proportion in their purchases. The private library is not of necessity tied in either of these respects. The private collector may purchase for a large sum a single volume, or may confine his energy to one class of books. Many special collections are formed in this manner, and frequently bequeathed to public libraries. Special collections require special catalogues, in which descriptions should be fuller than in ordinary library catalogues. Private libraries are a likely workshop in which these may be produced. Private libraries not to be considered as preserves surrounded with barbed wire fences. Literary treasures in them should be available to students. The example of Peiresc in this respect worthy of imitation. Private libraries, also, are a kind of national literary reserve fund, from which the public libraries in the future must of necessity draw their old books and manuscripts. Rarities in private libraries are not necessarily out of the reach of the student, but frequently more accessible to him than if they were in public collections.

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Professor A. L. MEISSNER, Ph.D., librarian of the Queen's College, to read his paper on

MATRICULATION BOOKS.

The publication of the old matriculation books of the Universities of Bologna, Heidelberg, Oxford, Frankfort-on-the-Oder and others, is giving rise, especially in Germany, to a most varied and instructive literature. From these books he traced in an interesting way many important family names, including one named Johannes Carolus, whose portrait adorns the walls of the Queen's College.

The CHAIRMAN next called upon Mr. FRANK CAMPBELL of the British Museum to read

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE FUTURE.

It consisted of a review of the state of modern national and international bibliography, with suggested reforms.

Emphasising the importance of the subject in connection with the work of public libraries, he reviewed in detail the radical causes of disorder in bibliography.

While attributing the evil generally to the absence of a system of compulsory national book-registration, and the consequent absence of a complete series of periodical special bibliographies, he showed how it was aggravated by the division of the stream of literature, and the resulting failure to recognise books when disguised in collected works, series, and periodical literature. He referred also to the tendency to confuse the literature of one country with that of another.

In regard to remedies suggested, Mr. Campbell referred to the need for an adjustment of the claims of ancient and modern bibliography, and proposed the institution of :—

- (1) A Training College for Librarians.
- (2) A Fund in support of *Modern* Bibliographical research.
- (3) A National Bibliographical Bureau, to include :—
 - (a) Registration Branch.
 - (b) Special Bibliographies Branch.
 - (c) Periodical Literature Branch.
 - (d) Indexing Branch.
 - (e) International Bibliographical Branch.
 - (f) State-Papers Branch.
 - (g) Provincial and Municipal Official Literature Branch.

As such a bureau would correspond with definite branches of work concerning which much difference of opinion existed, Mr. Campbell suggested the formation (in connection with the Library Association and the Bibliographical Society) of auxiliary associations of those specially interested in such work, and pledged to investigate the theory and practical issues of the several subjects, and to report upon the same.

Mr. Campbell illustrated the meaning of his suggestions by a printed memorandum setting forth more fully the work required to be done, and sketching a brief outline of the duties of the auxiliary societies proposed.

The paper was briefly discussed by Mr. Ogle and the Chairman, both of whom warmly complimented Mr. Campbell upon the ability which he had exhibited in his treatment of the subject, which was recognised as one of the most important that could engage the attention of the Association.

The meeting then adjourned.

THE LORD MAYOR'S GARDEN PARTY.

In the afternoon the Lord Mayor (Mr. William M'Cammond, J.P.) and the Lady Mayoress gave a garden party in honour of the visit of the Library Association. Walton, Fortwilliam Park, for picturesqueness of situation and beauty of surroundings stands unsurpassed among the many charming residences which grace the city and neighbourhood. The mansion is ornamented by an octagon tower, and the view, which from here is unrivalled, was enjoyed by many of the visitors. On one side you have the wild grandeur of the Cavehill and the well-wooded landscape extending almost to the shores of Belfast Lough, while on the other the city stretches as far as the eye can see, reposing under its ever-present canopy of smoke. Looking before him, the spectator enjoys the panoramic view presented by the lough, and if this noble passage of water be illuminated by the afternoon sun, as it was this afternoon, the prospect is one of extreme beauty. With such natural attractions, Walton is an ideal place for such a function, but the Lord Mayor provided more tangible means of entertainment for his guests than admiring the beauties of landscape, gratifying and pleasing even as this might be. The programme of entertainments provided was quite unique in its character, and admirable taste and judgment was displayed in its arrangement. Upwards of a thousand invitations were issued, and most of the recipients availed themselves of the opportunity of enjoying the Lord Mayor's hospitality, and spending the afternoon in his picturesque grounds. The guests included the *élite* of the city and district, as well as representatives of the commercial and trading interests. No element was omitted that would render it a complete success, and, favoured by the weather, the result was as satisfactory and gratifying as the most sanguine anticipations had hoped for. The forenoon was somewhat gloomy, and a heavy shower fell early in the afternoon, but the weather brightened before the arrival of the guests, and the rain had no perceptible effect upon the attendance. Everyone seemed at home—the Lord Mayor and his amiable wife and his sons, Messrs. W. A. and W. E. C. M'Cammond, being most attentive to the wants and wishes of their guests. The guests began to arrive about four o'clock, and they were received by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. An hour or so later the Marquess and Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava graced the assembly by their presence. They were accompanied by the Earl of Ava, Sir Arthur and Lady Nicholson, Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson, Lady Hermione Blackwood, Lord Basil Blackwood, the Honourable W. L. and Lady

Victoria Plunket, Lord and Lady Clanmorris and Mr. R. E. Ward, D.L. The entertainments provided for the enjoyment of the visitors included open-air concerts, telephone concerts, and phonographic exhibitions. The first mentioned were given by the Orpheus Male Quartette, under the direction of Mr. George C. Ferguson, and all the selections in the attractive programme they contributed were much appreciated. During the afternoon the band of the 4th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles, performed. In addition to the entertainments referred to, numerous games were provided for the amusement of the visitors, and the party was in every respect a success. Mr. H. R. Hembry, photographer, was present, and obtained successful groups.

In the evening at 7.30 was held the

BUSINESS MEETING.

On the motion of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. PETER COWELL was unanimously voted to the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the first business was to receive, and if approved, adopt the Report of the Council, together with the Treasurer's and Auditors' Reports upon the Finances of the Association.

On the motion of the HON. SECRETARY these were taken as read and unanimously adopted.

Report of the Council of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, to the 17th Annual Meeting, for the year 1893-94.

BELFAST, SEPTEMBER, 1894.

THE Council is glad to be able to report that although the past year has been mainly one of retrenchment (rendered necessary by the heavy deficit reported at the last Annual Meeting, the Association has made steady progress, and that while no important new departures have been made, much valuable work has been accomplished.

MEMBERSHIP.

The list of members now includes 32 Honorary Members, 30 Life Members, 354 Ordinary Members, 82 Libraries, and 40 Assistant Members, making a total of 538.

Death has removed several members. Among these was a member of the Council, Mr. Talbot Baines Reed, Hon. Secretary of the Bibliographical Society, of which he was one of the founders. Mr. Reed was an enthusiastic bibliographer, and had devoted much time and study to the investigation of the early history of printing. He had, moreover, achieved considerable distinction as a writer of fiction.

ABERDEEN MEETING.

The Council is happy to place on record its entire satisfaction with the success of the 16th Annual Meeting, for which the thanks of the Association are so largely due to the enthusiasm and zeal of the Honorary

Local Secretaries, and to the generous hospitality of the citizens of Aberdeen. The Municipal and University Authorities vied with each other in pleasant rivalry, and the result was one of the most successful meetings ever held by the Association.

MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Season, 1893-94.

These have been well attended, and excellent discussions have been held.

October.—A paper was read, entitled "The Place of Libraries in relation to Elementary, Secondary, and Higher Education," by W. E. A. Axon.

December.—The following paper was read: "The Place of the Public Library in relation to Elementary, Secondary, and Higher Education; being mainly an account of the work accomplished at the Wolverhampton Public Library Technical College," by Fred. A. Turner, Librarian of the Brentford Public Library.

November.—The following papers were read: "Mechanical Appliances for Catalogues and Indexes," by J. Duff Brown, Librarian of the Clerkenwell Public Library; "District Library Associations and their Uses," by J. T. Radford, Librarian of the Mechanics' Institution, Nottingham.

January.—Archibald Clarke read a paper, entitled "Scientific Text Books and the disposal of out-of-date Editions"; and J. Y. W. MacAlister one, entitled "A Plea for a Closer Connection between Public Libraries and other Public Educational Institutions."

February.—A paper was read by Joseph Gilbert, entitled "In the Lending Library."

March.—A paper was read by G. R. Humphery, entitled "Paris and London Libraries: a Contrast."

April.—A paper was read by A. Falconer Madan, Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, entitled "An Early Printing Press, as described by Thomas Hearne, with notes."

May.—The Association discussed an invitation to take part in a Deputation to the Government in favour of Sunday Opening, and it was unanimously resolved that the question did not come within the objects of the Association.

At a Special Meeting held on May 29th, at the Royal Colonial Institute, Mr. James R. Boosé read a paper "On the Library of the Royal Colonial Institute."

June.—Mrs. Clarinda Webster, R.A.M., read a paper on "Music in the Public Libraries."

PUBLICATIONS.

Owing to the necessity for economy, the publication of the series of Handbooks had to be interrupted, but the Council is glad to report that its official organ, *THE LIBRARY*, has resumed its wonted punctuality, and in its pages have been published, both in the domain of practical and scholarly librarianship, many valuable papers.

THE YEAR BOOK is now an established success, and during the past year, the first edition having been rapidly exhausted, it was found necessary to issue a second (revised) edition.

It is gratifying to note the appreciation this publication has evoked, not only in the United Kingdom, but abroad. Letters of thanks and

congratulation have been received from France, Germany, Italy, America, India, and from some of the Colonies. Several Government Departments have made special application for copies.

EXAMINATIONS.

These were duly held in December, 1893, and June, 1894, and the number of candidates continues to increase.

The following candidates have passed :—

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

- In Arithmetic*—T. Aspling, J. R. Crisp, A. E. Duncan, H. Farr, L. Greenham, Winifred Parry, W. Powell, S. Pitt, J. M. Salmond, A. J. Scudder, F. J. Thacker.
- In English Literature*—T. Aspling, M. J. Cumming, H. Farr, Walter Powell, Winifred Parry, S. Pitt, J. M. Salmond, F. J. Thacker.
- In History*—T. Aspling, J. R. Crisp, M. J. Cumming, A. E. Duncan, E. E. England, H. Farr, S. Pitt, W. Powell, W. Parry, J. M. Salmond, F. J. Thacker.
- In Geography*—T. Aspling, J. R. Crisp, A. E. Duncan, H. Farr, L. Greenham, S. Pitt, Winifred Parry, W. Powell, J. M. Salmond, F. J. Thacker.
- In Library Management*—A. Clarke, H. Farr, W. Powell, G. Roebuck, A. J. Scudder, J. M. Salmond, F. J. Thacker.

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION.

- In French Literature*—W. M. Cox, George Smith.
- In German Literature*—Mary Grover.
- In Library Management*—Archibald Clarke, F. J. Thacker.

In consequence of representation made by several of the Examiners, the Council remitted the present scheme of Examination to a Committee for careful consideration and revision, and the following report has been sent in :—

REPORT ON EXAMINATIONS.

Your Examiners beg leave to recommend that the Preliminary Examination should no longer be held, and that all future Examinations be restricted to professional subjects only. All candidates (except those who have been engaged in library work during five years previous to the Examination) should possess a certificate of having passed some public examination from among the list of those accepted by the General Medical Council.

The Examination should consist of three sections :—

- (1) Bibliography and Literary History.
- (2) Cataloguing, Classification, and Shelf Arrangement.
- (3) Library Management.

Each section might be taken separately, and certificates *pro tanto* granted as heretofore. Handwriting, spelling, and English composition should be taken into consideration by the Examiners.

The Honours Certificate should be dropped.

The special object of the Examination as a test of the practical competence of the candidate should be held in view by the Examiners in settling the questions. In the same way the candidate should bear in mind that no study of text books is of value unless accom-

panied with a knowledge of books, such as can only be acquired by actual experience in a library.

July 28th, 1894.

PROPOSED SYLLABUS.

I. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND LITERARY HISTORY.

(Two Literatures to be taken, of which one must be English.)

(a) *Bibliography*. Besides the practical knowledge obtained in his own library, the candidate must show a fair knowledge of the matter dealt with in Text-books 5 and 6 of the present syllabus. He must have some acquaintance with the history of printing and the leading bibliographical works of reference. He must know the Latin names of the towns most frequently found in imprints.

(b) *Literary History*, especially of the last hundred years.

Each candidate must show that he has a thorough knowledge of the matter of the text-books in the appended List, and, moreover, an acquaintance with the editions and forms in which the works of leading writers have been published, and of the literature that has grown up around those works.

II. CATALOGUING, CLASSIFICATION, AND SHELF ARRANGEMENT.

The candidate must be able to catalogue and classify a number of books in at least two languages (one of which must be Latin), besides English. He must be familiar with leading systems of cataloguing, and the best printed catalogues produced in English speaking countries, theories, and schemes of classification, size-notation, shelf-registers, &c.

III. LIBRARY MANAGEMENT.

This section of the Examination will be a test of the candidate's experience, and his skill and readiness in dealing with the various practical problems which may come before him. He will be examined as to the methods in use in his own library. The chief subjects may be thus arranged :—

- (1) *Public Libraries Acts*.—History and leading provisions (only if the candidate is from a rate-supported Library.)
- (2) *Administration*.—Committees, staff, finance, business books, rules and regulations for the public.
- (3) *Buildings*.—Plans and specifications, lighting, heating, ventilation.
- (4) *Fittings and Appliances generally*, but excluding mechanical methods used in cataloguing.
- (5) *Maintenance*.—Binding, stationery, periodicals, donations, propositions, &c., and their various books of records.
- (6) *Executive Work*.—Charging and registration of books, lending and reference, registration of readers or borrowers, issue and other statistics.
- (7) *General*.—Aid to readers, reference library work, news rooms.

The Council cordially endorses this report, and submits it to the Annual Meeting for adoption.

SUMMER SCHOOL.

The second Summer School was held on June 19th to 22nd inclusive.

It was attended by sixty-seven persons, and must be regarded as a marked success. Owing to the difficulty of making the consecutive hours fit in with the convenience of the Institutions and business establishments which had kindly offered to receive the members, it was found impossible to issue the programme before the members assembled ; but to minimise any possible inconvenience this might cause to members, an outline of the following programme was advertised in the *Athenæum* :—

PROGRAMME OF THE SECOND SUMMER SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP.

Tuesday, June 19th, at 7.30 p.m.

Reception by the Council of the Association, and Exhibition of Library Appliances in the Rooms of the Association, 20, Hanover Square.

Wednesday, June 20th, at 10 a.m.

The School will gather in the Entrance Hall of the British Museum.

An address will be delivered by Dr. Garnett, and this will be followed by visits to the Departments of MSS., and of Printed Books. A visit will also be paid to the Bookbinding Department.

At 2 p.m. a visit will be paid to the Chiswick Press, in Took's Court, Chancery Lane, when the party will be conducted, and the processes explained, by Mr. Jacobi.

At 4 p.m. a visit will be paid to the atelier of Mr. Zæhnsdorf, Cambridge Circus, who will himself explain the different processes of binding.

Thursday, June 21st, at 10 a.m.

The works of the Linotype Company will be visited.

At 11.30, Messrs. Cassell & Co. have invited the School to visit their works in La Belle Sauvage, Ludgate Hill, E.C.

Friday, June 22nd, at 10 a.m.

The party will visit the Library of Sion College, where the system of classification will be explained by the Rev. W. H. Milman, the Librarian.

At 2.30 p.m. the party will assemble at the Wandsworth Public Library, and from thence, at 2.45, proceed to visit the Royal Paper Mills. After visiting the Mills, the members are very kindly invited by Mr. Cecil Davis, the Librarian, to return to the Library, where tea will be provided.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—It was found last year that visits paid to these libraries by large parties did not admit of detailed examination of methods, and in consequence this year it has been arranged that the members of the School shall visit the libraries independently. They will be received by the librarians, or their assistants, and every facility offered to them for a careful examination of the various libraries. The libraries, of which a list is appended, will be open to inspection.

NOTE.—The Proprietors of the *Times* have kindly offered to admit a party of six to see the printing of a First Edition. Those members of the School who would like to join this party should give their names at once to the Honorary Secretary. The party will then be selected by lot.

Mr. MacAlister, in order to encourage the members of the School to make careful notes of what they saw and heard, renewed his offer of a prize of Three Pounds for the best report of the proceedings.

He informs the Council that the judges have awarded the prize to Mr. F. J. Thacker, of the Birmingham Public Library, whose excellent report will probably be published in an early issue of *THE LIBRARY*.

MUSEUM.

Under the fostering care of the honorary curator, Mr. J. D. Brown, the Museum of Library Apparatus continues to increase in extent and usefulness.

During the past year the Council received from the American Library Association—and gratefully acknowledged—a most valuable gift of a duplicate set of the forms, blanks, catalogues, exhibited by the American Library Association at the World's Fair.

LEGISLATION.

The legislation of the past year has been of importance, affecting, as it does, the whole of the United Kingdom.

The Local Government Act, 1894 (popularly known as the "Parish Councils Act") has in what may be termed an indirect manner, revolutionised the adoption and carrying into effect in England and Wales of the Public Libraries Act, 1892, so far as regards rural parishes. Henceforth the adoption of the Act will, in such parishes, be by ballot. This principle was extended to urban districts by the Public Libraries (Amendment) Act, 1893. In lieu of the commissioners provided by the Act of 1855, and continued by the Act of 1892, the new Parish Councils will be charged with the execution of the Act in any rural parish where it is adopted, and even existing commissioners will cease to act on the Parish Council coming into office, as all their powers, duties, and liabilities are transferred to that Council by the new Act. Whether the sweeping changes effected by the new legislation (and there are other provisions not mentioned here) will be advantageous to library work, or prove an impetus to the more general adoption of the Act, remains to be seen.

The Scotch Act of 1887 has been amended by the Public Libraries (Scotland) Act, 1894. This is a short but important Act. It modifies the adoption of the principal Act in burghs, by permitting the magistrates and Council to adopt it by a resolution (to be passed and published as prescribed) in substitution for the determination of the householders required under the principal Act. Thus the scheme of the English Act of 1893 has been extended to Scotland.

The Irish Act of 1855 has been considerably altered by the Public Libraries (Amendment) Act, 1894. It provides for the adoption of the principal Act in an urban district by a resolution of the urban authority, but with the important reservation that, where such authority fails to pass the necessary resolution, the right of the voters to adopt the Act is not to be prejudiced. But where the adoption is by the voters, their opinion is to be taken by ballot, and not, as heretofore, by voting papers. The principle embodied in the English and Scotch Acts for the combination of two or more authorities, and the making of agreements by two or more urban authorities for the joint use of a library, has been extended to Ireland, and there are other minor provisions, as to which reference must be made to the Act itself.

The Council believes that the extension of the principle of the adoption of the Act by ballot, instead of by voting papers, is a step in the right direction, as also the power to adopt the Acts given to the local authorities; but it may well be that, in some districts, such authorities, consisting, as

they frequently do, of a large proportion of owners of property, who object to any addition to the rates, no matter how desirable or for what object, should not be allowed to frustrate the wishes of the inhabitants, and it therefore appears desirable to preserve the rights of the voters where the authority fails to exercise its powers.

There are other provisions of the Libraries Acts, and other Acts affecting library work which require amendment, and the views of the Council have been embodied in the draft Bill, to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

The Acts have been adopted in the following places since the issue of the Council's last report :

Blaenau Festiniog, 1894.	Middle Claydon, 1893.
Camborne, 1894.	Penarth, 1894.
Colne, 1894.	Ramsgate, 1894.
Dukinfield, 1894.	Redruth, 1894.
Gloucester, 1894.	Rochester, 1894.
Grimsby, 1894.	Rothwell, 1894.
Luton, 1894.	Waterford, 1894.

REJECTION OF ACTS.

Deptford, Dover, Fareham, Maidenhead, St. Pancras, Sevenoaks, Southend.

COUNTY COUNCIL GRANTS.

The Council regrets to have to record the refusal of the Technical Education Committee of the London County Council to recognise the important place which Public Libraries should occupy in any well-devised scheme of graduated Technical Education. In other parts of the country County Councils have been swift to see how much good work might be done by Public Libraries for Technical Education, and have generously subsidised their efforts—in every case with most excellent results.

However, the Council does not despair ultimately of accomplishing similar results in London. The Honorary Secretary has placed himself in communication with the Royal Commission on Secondary Education, and has been promised that the Association will be given an opportunity of calling attention to the position of Public Libraries in this question.

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS.

The Council, desiring to recognise their distinguished services to the Public Library Movement, recommend that the Honorary Membership of the Library Association of the United Kingdom should be conferred upon Mr. Passmore Edwards and Mr. Andrew Carnegie, and at monthly meetings they were unanimously elected.

FINANCE.

As will be seen by the Treasurer's Report, which is presented herewith, the financial affairs of the Association have greatly improved, and the Association is in a sound position much sooner than had been anticipated last year.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer has again to thank the Auditors for kindly assisting him to submit the Accounts—A. Income and Expenditure Account for 1893, and B. Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at 31st December, 1893—at an early period of the year, instead of waiting until the time of the Annual Meeting. These Accounts, with the Auditors' Report, dated 11th May, 1894, were distributed to members with the May number of *THE LIBRARY*. They are reprinted in the present report, with a further statement—C. Estimated Income and Expenditure for 1894.

In the year 1893, the income from subscriptions was about £25 less than had been anticipated. On the other hand, the receipts from the sale of publications was about the same amount in excess of the estimate. As a set-off to the large expenditure on "publications," credit for the sum of £45 was taken in income as increased value of the Stock of Publications in accordance with the decision of the Council mentioned in last year's report. A considerable saving upon the estimates was effected during the year, and the various items of expenditure show a marked tendency towards economy. This will be seen in the fact that whereas there was an excess of £143 12s. of Expenditure over Income in 1892, a small surplus of Income (£26 4s. 10d.) was carried to the Balance Sheet of 1893. There is every reason to believe that the accounts of the current year will also show a small surplus. Members must, however, bear in mind that it was found necessary to sell £100 Consols to discharge debts of 1892; until, therefore, such a sum can be set aside as will bring the Investments to the full amount of Life Members' Subscriptions (£221 11s.) the financial position of the Association cannot be considered so satisfactory as it was at the end of 1891. At December, 1893, the Balance Sheet still showed an excess of Liabilities over Assets.

The amount credited to the Benevolent Fund stands as before at £15 15s. 3d.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We have to report that we have examined the Treasurer's Account of the Income and Expenditure of the Association for the year ended December 31st, 1893, also the Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at the last-named date, and after comparing them with the Treasurer's books and vouchers we find the same correct.

After taking credit for £45, as increased value of the Stock of Publications, a surplus of income, £26 4s. 10d., is shown for the year.

In order to discharge the indebtedness brought over from 1892 it was necessary to sell out £100 Consols. It will be seen by the Balance Sheet that the Investments are now reduced below the amount of Life Members' Subscriptions, which, by the Constitution, are required to be invested.

GEO. R. HUMPHERY, } *Auditors.*
T. J. AGAR,

May 11th, 1894.

A. *Account of Income and Expenditure for the Year 1893.*

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Life Subscriptions.....	nil.	<i>The Library</i> supplied to members for the twelve months, including postage.....	171 15 10
Annual Subscriptions for the year 1893.....	425 15 6	Rent of Offices, 20, Hanover Square	25 0 0
Overdue Subscriptions in excess of estimate.....	1 11 6	“ <i>Year Book</i> ,” Printing and distribution to Members	38 1 7
Dividends on Consols and Interest from Post Office Savings Bank	6 19 7	“ <i>Library Association Series</i> ,” Publications Nos. 1 to 5, Printing and Publishing. (See set-off contra added to value of Stock)	72 2 7
Examination Fees.....	4 0 0	Annual Meeting at Aberdeen ; Reporting, Printing, Post-ages, and Sundry Expenses.....	33 15 1
Sale of Publications in 1893	28 0 9	General Printing, including Report of Council, Binding and Stationery	56 6 11
Rent of Offices from Sub-Tenants	5 5 0	Clerical Assistance	26 0 0
Amount added by the authority of the Council to the value of “ <i>Stock of Publications</i> ” in the Balance Sheet	45 0 0	Incidental and Petty Expenses—	
		General Postages	£36 16 7
		Advertising	1 13 6
		Hon. Secretary, Petty Cash	14 12 2
		Sundries, including Summer School Expenses.....	9 3 3
		Loss on Office Fixtures sold in 1893.....	62 5 6
			5 0 0
		Balance, being Surplus of Income for the year 1893, carried to Balance Sheet ..	490 7 6
			26 4 10
			<u>£516 12 4</u>

HENRY R. TEDDER, *Hon. Treasurer.*

B. Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at December 31st, 1893.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.
Life Members' Subscriptions, required by the Constitution to be invested				
Annual Subscriptions for 1894 and 1895 paid in advance ...		221	11	0
Benevolent Fund—Amount at credit 31st December, 1893 ..		13	13	0
Sundry Accounts owing by the Association at 31st December, 1893, included in the expenditure of that year, viz:—		15	15	3
<i>The Library</i>	£	s.	d.	
Hon. Secretary, Petty Cash	32	14	0	
Hon. Secretary, Printing	13	11	8	
A. King & Co., Printing	31	7	6	
Sundry Printing and other Accounts...	7	5	5	
		84	18	7
<hr/>				
ASSETS.				
Investment £150. Consols 2½ per cent. at cost		148	7	6
<i>(N.B.—£100 Consols sold Dec., 1893, for £97 17s. 9d. which was applied in discharge of Liabilities.)</i>				
Cash at Post Office Savings Bank		4	18	2
Cash at Bankers		22	13	1
Amount owing to the Association for Publications sold in 1893, included in the Income for that year		21	12	11
Estimated amount to be recovered for Subscriptions over-due		9	19	6
Office Fixtures		0	15	0
Stock of the Association's Publications, estimated to realise		85	0	0
<i>N.B.—This includes £45 added to the value of the Stock by authority of the Council (See Income and Expenditure Account).</i>				
		293	6	2
<hr/>				
Balance, being excess of Liabilities at 31st December, including in the latter £221 11s., Life Members' Subscriptions		42	11	8
<i>viz:—Excess of Liabilities on 31st December, 1892</i>				
Less Surplus of Income for the year 1893, as per Income and Expenditure Account		£68	16	6
		26	4	10
		£42	11	8
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		£335	17	10
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HENRY R. TEDDER, *Hon. Treasurer.*

C. *Estimated Income and Expenditure for the Year 1894.*

ESTIMATED INCOME.		ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Annual Subscriptions	425 0 0	<i>The Library</i> to be supplied to Members and for Stock for the twelve months, including Postage	175 0 0
Dividends and Interest	4 5 0	General Printing, including <i>Year Book</i> , Binding and Stationery	100 0 0
Examination Fees.....	2 2 0	Rent of Offices	25 0 0
Sale of Publications.....	30 0 0	Sundry Expenses :—	
		Examinations, Summer School, Clerical Assistance, Advertising, General Postages, Petty Cash, Annual Meeting at Belfast, &c., &c.	150 0 0
			450 0 0
		Balance, estimated surplus Income	11 7 0
	<u>£461 7 0</u>		<u>£461 7 0</u>

HENRY R. TEDDER, *Hon. Treasurer.*

The CHAIRMAN said that the next business was to consider the following amendment of the Constitution proposed by the Council :—

“That in chap. iv., sec. 1, lines 9 and 10, the words ‘and Vice-Presidents’ be struck out.”

Mr. TEDDER said the Council thought it undesirable that they should make that body too large by the addition of all past Vice-Presidents. Those past Vice-Presidents whom they thought desirable to add to the Council would be elected in the ordinary way. They thought it desirable to strike out the special enactment.

Mr. G. L. CAMPBELL, J.P. (Wigan), moved that the proposal of the Council be adopted.

Mr. WELCH : Will the effect be that from this meeting the present Vice-Presidents are not members of the Council?

Mr. MACALISTER said it only referred to past Vice-Presidents. An honour which was only intended for Presidents had also been given to the Vice-Presidents, and it landed them in this difficulty—they might have fifty Past Vice-Presidents on the Council in a few years.

Mr. WARNER seconded the resolution, and it was agreed to.

Mr. MACALISTER said the next proposal was :—That chap. vi., sec. 2 which read as follows :—

“The election of Officers and Council shall be conducted by ballot upon a list which shall include all nominations sent to the Secretary at least 10 days before the annual meeting. Each nomination must be assented to in writing by at least three members of the Association”—

be amended so that it shall read as follows :—(*Changes are underlined.*)

“The election of Officers and Council shall be conducted by ballot upon a list which shall include all nominations sent to the Secretary at least 10 days before the annual meeting. The President and Vice-Presidents shall be nominated by the Council, but the other officers and members of Council may be nominated either by the Council or by the members at large. Nominations by members must be signed by at least three members of the Association.”

Mr. MACALISTER said the scope of the proposed change was to leave in the hands of the Council the careful choosing of the President and Vice-Presidents. It was thought those dignities were such as made it very important that those officers should not be selected in the rush and heat of the Annual Meeting, but should be calmly thought over from one year to another, as it was to the best interests of the Association that they should have the opportunity of choosing the best men for those offices.

Mr. CAMPBELL moved the alteration on behalf of the Council.

Mr. TEDDER seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. MACALISTER said the next amendment was a very important one, and he thought it would conduce to the better performance of the work of the Association, which had grown very much in the last five or six years, and might, in the opinion of many, be sub-divided into distinct sections with advantage. The Council, therefore, proposed the following new rule :—

“The Council may appoint standing Committees, the members of which may be selected from the Council or from the general members of the Association, to deal with various departments of the Association’s work under such conditions as shall be fixed from time to time by the Council.”

One of the advantages of the new rule was that it would enable the Council to select non-councillors to assist in the work of the Association

by working on separate committees. At present all the work must be done by a few London members who were able to attend the Council meetings, and if they created committees without power to put on outside members it would still be the same men who would do the work.

Mr. CAMPBELL, in moving the new rule on behalf of the Council, said he should like to point out that the principle was really adopted by recent Acts of Parliament, especially in connection with the library authorities of the United Kingdom, for it was competent to appoint men who were not members of the corporation to assist on library committees, and it was the same on technical committees.

Mr. CHARLES WELCH, in seconding, said he thought it would be very desirable for the Council to constitute their committees of one member. (Laughter.)

Mr. OGLE (Bootle) said he would like to oppose the proposition. The resolution, which stood in his name a little later on, would have the effect of forming committees responsible to the Council. If the proposed new rule was passed it was so indefinitely worded—"under such conditions as shall be fixed from time to time by the Council"—that the conditions would be such that the Council would approve—which meant what the members of the Council, who could attend the monthly meetings, would approve. At present there were members of the Council who found it inconvenient to go up to London to attend a meeting, only to find it commenced an hour before the monthly meeting, and that the most important things on the agenda never came on at all. His proposition would enable the Council to fix their own meetings. The Council should meet three times only between the annual meetings. Last year, at Aberdeen, there was a meeting of the Council after its election, and a resolution was arrived at which was strongly supported by nearly all the country members present, and it was carried by a majority to this effect:—"Resolved, that the President be requested to summon the Council at least three times in the intervals between the annual meetings of the Association, and that the executive powers of the Council be delegated to a committee of ten members in addition to offices in intervals between the Council meetings, and that the proceedings of the committee be reported to each meeting of the Council for approval." At the next meeting of the Council in London that resolution was considered, and it was resolved—"That in the opinion of this meeting the constitution of an Executive Committee seems to involve an alteration of the constitution, and that it is desirable to consider the whole question fully at the next meeting of the Council, and that before that copies of this resolution be sent to all members of the Council with the request that they should, if not able to be present, put their opinions in writing to the Secretary." The effect of his resolution would be that the Council would meet less often, and there would be more inducement to the country members to go up to London, if they could be sure of the committees' work coming up for approval or disapproval. He did not cast any reflection upon the London Council, but the system was wrong, and he proposed a better system of working. He considered the proposals of the Council indefinite, incomplete, and unsatisfactory. He could see many objections to secondary committees if they gave them full and absolute powers, and if they did not give them such powers they ought to report to the Council, so that the Council might approve of their proceedings. He laid his proposition before them as a simple and plain plan, parallel to that adopted by corporations and other similar bodies.

Mr. MACALISTER said he was in sympathy with everything Mr. Ogle had said, except in one point, and that was that he did not see how Mr. Ogle's proposition clashed with that of the Council. He did not see why the two should not be carried and work harmoniously. They thought it

would be better to have an Examinations committee, a Museum committee, &c., and it did not seem to him that those committees, with their definite work, would interfere with the proposal that there should be a strong general executive committee appointed. He hoped Mr. Ogle would try to see the matter in that light. He (Mr. MacAlister) was responsible for the proposal, and the Council, after making certain amendments, adopted it. At the present time they had no power to remit such things as he had mentioned to sub-committees. Their constitution was fearfully and wonderfully made and the Council had no power to appoint a sub-committee at all at present !

Mr. C. MADELEY (Warrington) : You have appointed sub-committees.

Mr. MACALISTER : The Association alone can appoint sub-committees. The Council may have done so, but if so, it was outside their powers and we want now to do it legally.

Mr. J. MACLAUCHLAN (Dundee) said in the course of the discussion it had been stated that the new sub-committees were to be armed with despotic powers. He could quite understand the Council having power to appoint committees and sub-committees, but they should not be allowed to do more than make recommendations. He agreed with the Hon. Secretary that the two propositions did not clash.

Mr. J. BALLINGER (Cardiff) : The ground would be cleared of a difficulty if the Hon. Secretary would tell us how far it would involve us in expenditure.

Mr. MACALISTER pointed out that the committees' actions would be regulated "under such conditions as shall be fixed from time to time by the Council." That was a prettier way of saying they should not spend money on their own initiative. The committees could do nothing without the consent of the Council.

Mr. OGLE said he did not say that the resolution of the Council was inconsistent with his, but he thought that if his resolution had happened to come on first, the resolution of the Council would have been unnecessary, because his contained all the powers contained in the other, with the exception of the power of appointing on these committees persons who were not members of the Council, which he did not think was a good thing. He would vote against the resolution of the Council because he thought all that was good in it was contained in his resolution, which also guarded against certain difficulties.

Mr. TEDDER supported the resolution proposed on behalf of the Council, and it was put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. MACALISTER said the next proposition of the Council was simply to place in the hands of the Association the power, if they thought fit, to keep a president longer than one year. At present, whoever they had in the chair, he had to go at the end of twelve months. They proposed that that state of affairs should be altered by the adoption of the following resolution :—

"That chap. iv., sec. 3, which at present reads as follows :—
'The president shall be capable of holding office for a continuous period of not more than one year,' be rescinded."

Mr. CAMPBELL then moved the alteration as suggested by the Hon. Secretary. He said there could be no doubt circumstances might easily arise where it would be desirable to re-elect a president.

Mr. WELCH : Would it not be wise to limit the period of a president to two or three years ? It would be a bad thing to have a perpetual president.

Mr. W. MAY (Birkenhead) : I agree with Mr. Welch.

Mr. MACALISTER thought if Mr. Welch's suggestion was adopted it would make it very invidious. If they said a president might hold office for two or three years, and then turned him off at the end of one year, he would not like it.

Mr. MADELEY supported Mr. Welch's suggestion.

Mr. MACALISTER said it had been proposed to have an international conference next year, and the man they elected as president should not be a local man. He should be a man who would help the Association and receive universal respect from all parts of the world. He would not mention any names. He did not know whether their present president would continue to serve another year or not, but if they were to have an international conference he did not know that they could have a better president.

Mr. MACLAUCHLAN thought the alterations suggested by the Council had been carefully thought out and should be adopted.

The CHAIRMAN : There is no doubt that the annual changing of president is rather a healthy sign. There are many who have borne the heat and burden of the day who might be appointed to the office. I have often thought that Mr. Mullins ought to have been appointed, and there are others, such as our friend Mr. Tedder, here. It is said in my own native town, Liverpool, that the people love a lord. It is to be hoped that our Association will not drift into that and have a permanent president.

The motion was then carried.

Mr. OGLE then proceeded to move :—"That chap. iv., sec. 1, which at present reads as follows :—

'The whole affairs of the Association shall be conducted (subject to the control of annual and special general meetings) by a Council, consisting of a President, twelve Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, an Honorary Solicitor, a Secretary, and thirty-two others, of whom twelve shall be London and twenty country members. The above shall be elected at one annual meeting, and shall bear office until the close of the next. To these shall be added all Past Presidents who shall intimate their wish to serve on the Council,'

be amended so that it shall read as follows :—(*Changes are underlined*)

'The whole affairs of the Association shall be conducted (subject to the control of annual and special general meetings) by a Council, consisting of a President, twelve Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, an Honorary Solicitor, a Secretary, and thirty-two others, of whom twelve shall be London and twenty country members. But the Council may remit portions of its work to a Committee which shall meet as often as is necessary in the intervals between successive Council meetings, and this Committee shall submit for confirmation, or otherwise, a report of its proceedings at each meeting of the Council. The officers and other members of Council shall be elected at one annual meeting, and shall bear office until the close of the next. To these shall be added all Past Presidents who shall intimate their wish to serve on the Council.'

Mr. Ogle said he need not add any argument to what he had already stated, or weary them with a long speech. He would merely move the resolution.

Mr. DENT (Aston Manor) seconded the motion.

Mr. L. S. JAST (Peterborough) : Why do you limit them to one committee and not say committees? They may want to remit their work to others.

Mr. CAMPBELL said in this case the Council moved no amendment; they met the resolution with a direct negative. They said the members had given them power by the adoption of their own resolution to appoint committees and secure the services of experts. They asked for no further help than to the constitution which had been given them.

Mr. TEDDER said he did not approve of the resolution proposed by Mr. Ogle. It had been very fully discussed in London, and they saw many things in it which they thought could not be carried out in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Ogle's suggestion practically was that an executive committee should be appointed to carry on the work of the Association during the greater part of the year. That executive committee would have to meet, he presumed, in London.

Mr. OGLE : Why?

Mr. TEDDER said because London was the centre of the organisation of the Association, and the committee would consist almost entirely of London members. If it did not consist almost entirely of London members it would not be able to meet at all with sufficient frequency. He, therefore, saw no reason for passing that resolution. Mr. Ogle made some suggestion that the work of the Association was not carried on satisfactorily ; he did not point out any single instance of unsatisfactory working, but he made a general statement. He was not prepared to say at that meeting that the Council represented at the usual meetings was entirely infallible—there were very few of them who were entirely infallible—but the general drift of the resolution was that there should be an executive or management committee, and however useful that suggestion would be he did not think that was the best way to carry it out. The Council might remit portions of its work to a committee, which would meet as often as it was necessary.

The Executive Committee proposed by Mr. Ogle would submit its decisions for confirmation or otherwise to the Council, but then the Council would only meet, according to that arrangement, three times a year, and therefore the general work of the Association would have to remain dormant for three or four months. As at present constituted the Council might deliberate and order certain work to be carried out, and generally speaking, it was carried out at once. He would therefore feel himself obliged to vote against that proposition.

Mr. MACALISTER : I think I ought to make an explanation. When I spoke as I did a few minutes ago to Mr. Ogle, I was in entire ignorance that at the meeting of the Council this morning it was resolved to negative this proposition. It was in perfect good faith that I said what I did say to him. I was a good deal in favour of this proposal last year, but I confess one difficulty Mr. Tedder has alluded to forces itself upon me. This new committee would be practically paralysed. It might decide upon important measures, but it could do absolutely nothing until the quarterly meeting came round. Does Mr. Ogle mean that the committee would pass a resolution ordering certain things to be done and incur expense, and then gravely go through the farce of asking permission afterwards, or does he mean it to wait until the meetings?

Mr. OGLE : The answer to that is that all sub-committees and committees of town councils work under precisely the same conditions. The result would be that instead of business lying dormant twelve months, as it may now, it would lie dormant only three months. Last year, at the annual meeting, there was a great deal of talk about a legislative committee, and that was appointed, but it has never been summoned.

Mr. WRIGHT submitted that this discussion was almost unnecessary, for, to his mind, the whole difficulty was met by the previous resolution which they had carried. That provided that the Council could appoint special committees to transact certain business. Well, if that power was given the Council, they could appoint an executive committee to carry out any executive work they felt inclined to hand over to a smaller number. The great difficulty was that they had a large Council ; the attendance at the Council meetings was very small, and the few provincial members who attended from time to time found that the majority of those present were,

of course, London members. He thought the resolution they had passed met the case exactly. He was in entire sympathy with the principle of Mr. Ogle's resolution, but after the resolution they had passed he did not think it was necessary.

Mr. L. S. JAST (Peterborough): Committees in town councils have to report to their larger committees and town councils at no longer time than a month or six weeks, while here it would happen that you would have to wait three months for another meeting.

Mr. F. S. HERNE (Leicester): There is nothing in the resolution about the Council meeting only once in three months. There may be something behind it, but there is nothing in the resolution as to whether they should meet once or oftener.

Mr. G. L. CAMPBELL (Wigan): I assure the meeting they have reason to be grateful to the members of the Council who meet and carry on our business. You have given the Council, by the resolution passed, power to call in experts for every section of work. The Council will exercise that power. You must trust the London members to a very large extent, and certainly you will be taking away a considerable amount of the confidence you repose in them if you pass this resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: I feel I must bring the discussion to a close.

Mr. Ogle's resolution was then put to the meeting, and defeated by a large majority.

Mr. OGLE then moved:—"That chap. iv., sec. 8, which at present reads as follows:—

'Meetings of the Council shall be called by the President, and shall be held at such time and place as he shall appoint. It shall be lawful for the Secretary to submit any resolution to each member of the Council in writing, and to receive written answers;'

be amended so that it shall read as follows:—(*Changes are underlined*)

'Meetings of the Council shall be called by the President or by the Secretary, and shall be held at such times and places as may be decided at a Council meeting immediately after the election of the officers and Council, or at any subsequent Council meeting. It shall be lawful for the Secretary to submit any resolution to each member of the Council in writing, and to receive written answers.'

Mr. CAMPBELL seconded the motion.

Mr. MACALISTER said the gist of the matter was that at present only the President had power to call a meeting of the Council, and Mr. Ogle proposed for convenience, that he (the Secretary) should also be able to do so, and that the Council should always fix the time of the meetings.

Mr. TEDDER: Should not the Council, too, have the power of calling meetings?

Mr. OGLE said his reason for moving that resolution was that at present the meetings were fixed inconveniently for country members.

Mr. WARNER suggested that the Secretary should be empowered to call a meeting on a requisition signed by three members.

Ultimately Mr. Ogle's motion was adopted with the addition of the words "or by five members of the Council" after the words "by the President or by the Secretary."

Mr. MACALISTER said Mr. Ogle had referred to the legislation committee which was recently appointed. There was no lack of work so far as preparing the Bill was concerned, but all the work so far had been necessarily done by Mr. Fovargue and himself. It was suggested at Aberdeen that a Bill should be prepared and drafted, and a sub-committee was appointed to consider and finally settle the draft when prepared. He got the Bill drafted and submitted to several Members of

Parliament, and they begged that the matter should be allowed to stand over until next year, and that was why the committee were not summoned.

THE SCRUTINEERS.

It was announced that the labour of the scrutineers was so great that they required additional help, and Messrs. Day, Lancaster, Formby and G. L. Campbell, were, therefore, sent to their assistance.

THE PROGRAMME.

Mr. FRANK CAMPBELL (London) raised a question as to the nature of the programme prepared for the conference. He asked what were the objects of their meeting? He took it they met, first, to hear a record of the past year's work, and an estimate of the work to be performed during the coming year; and, secondly, to discuss those matters which practically affected the work of librarians and which required discussion amongst them. Was there no means of urging members to contribute papers on more practical subjects at future meetings?

The CHAIRMAN said all papers must of necessity be voluntary, and the choice of the subjects should lie with the authors.

Mr. TEDDER proposed that a vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Cowell for presiding. He was sure he echoed the feelings of everybody present when he said they were pleased to see Mr. Cowell again, and he should be glad to have anyone like him as a perpetual chairman.

The motion was heartily adopted, and the CHAIRMAN having acknowledged the compliment, the meeting adjourned.

THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6.

The third day's proceedings commenced at the Queen's College about ten o'clock on Thursday morning. Owing to the amount of business still to be transacted, the work was divided into three sections, meeting as follows:—Section A (dealing with library legislation) in the Library; section B (library management) in the Natural Philosophy room; and section C (library history and bibliography) in the English room.

SECTION A. : LIBRARY LEGISLATION.

Chairman.—Mr. James W. Southern, J.P., of Manchester.

Recorder.—Mr. G. L. Campbell, J.P., of Wigan.

The CHAIRMAN said it had been thought best to divide the work that day into three different sections, and in that section they had to deal with matters relating to library legislation. There were five papers down upon their list, discussion on which would be appropriate in that section. He thought the first three papers might with advantage be discussed together, and without unnecessary loss of time he would call upon Mr. H. W. Fovargue, Hon. Solicitor of the Association, to read the first.

PARISH COUNCILS AND THE LIBRARIES ACTS.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VI., p. 307.)

After referring to the Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts Amendment Act, 1894, and the Public Libraries (Scotland) Act, 1894, he alluded to the important alterations in the law relating to public libraries effected by

the Local Government Act, 1894 (popularly described as the Parish Councils Act), pointing out that in a Rural Parish the Act may now be adopted at a Parish Meeting, but a poll, if demanded, must be taken by ballot, and not by voting papers. Further, that existing Commissioners in Rural Parishes would be superseded by the new Parish Council, and that in the Metropolis and Urban Districts the Vestry or Council, or Sanitary Authority, might obtain powers from the Local Government Board for the transfer of the duties of existing Library Commissioners to such Vestry, Council or other Authority. Until the Local Government Board Regulations are issued the "appointed day" for the commencement of the Act could not be definitely stated.

The next paper by Mr. JOHN BALLINGER, Chief Librarian of Cardiff, was then read.

ON THE CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES UNDER THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., page 1.)

This paper was prepared from information collected from 214 public libraries. It was accompanied by a schedule containing a summary of the replies received. It dealt with the various interpretations of the powers of a committee as revealed by the returns, and with such questions as co-opted members, submission of minutes, the size of committees, the delegation of the powers under the Act of 1892, section 15, the appointment of sub-committees, the admission of the Press to meetings, and numerous other points. The smallest committee is composed of five members, while two towns have committees with over 50 members. By far the greater number of committees have under 20 members. In 44 towns the meetings are reported in the Press, and in 127 they are not reported. In many places the committees have no regular time for meeting; one committee meets annually, two meet half-yearly, and a large number quarterly.

The paper clearly points to the desirability of some improvement upon the present state of things, and Mr. Ballinger suggested for consideration committees as provided for in the "Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1887."

THE CHAIRMAN next called upon Mr. HENRY DIXON, Junr., to read his paper,

THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN IRELAND.

The paper dealt with the difficulties which had prevented the establishment of free libraries in the towns of that country. These difficulties consisted mainly in (1) The fact that the residents possessed no power to compel the local authorities to take the opinion of the voters. (2) The indisposition of the local authorities to promote libraries. (3) The objection to additional taxation. (4) The high franchise. (5) The population limit. And (6) The cry that "objectionable books" might be admitted. He pointed out that these difficulties had been in a great measure removed by the Irish Libraries Act of 1894, which was promoted by the Young Ireland League, and that that body had furnished copies of the Act to every municipal town in Ireland, and were actively engaged in the promotion of libraries under the Act. He also stated that the Act when introduced contained provisions enabling public libraries to be established in the rural districts, but that the provisions relating to the rural districts had been expunged in Parliament, although libraries were

more necessary in rural districts than in large towns, and afforded a better area for sufficient income. He stated the promoters of the 1894 Bill intended to promote next Session a Bill to afford facilities to the inhabitants of rural districts to obtain the establishment of a library, and asked the Library Association to declare in favour of such a Bill.

After reading his paper Mr. H. DIXON moved, and it was unanimously resolved :—

“That this meeting is of opinion that the Public Libraries Acts should be extended to Rural Districts in Ireland, and that in the event of any Bill being promoted with this object the Secretary be requested to communicate with all the members of the Association with a view to their urging their Parliamentary representatives to support the Bill.”

The CHAIRMAN said the three papers just read travelled over a great amount of ground, and would involve discussion of extreme value. He thought the paper by Mr. Fovargue imposed a sense of responsibility upon the members of the Association and all friends of libraries and of books in view of the new state of things which it opened out throughout England. The opportunity might serve and ought to be used for a very considerable extension of the operation of the Public Libraries Acts throughout the length and breadth of the country. It seemed to him to re-open, as it were, the question, by constituting the parish councils all over the country authorities with power to deal with that important question, and if it awakened in them the determination to keenly watch its operations in relation to other matters, and so far as in them lay, to secure that the new authorities thus created should have a sense of their responsibility in regard to the dissemination of literature, then that paper would not have been without purpose that morning. In the very valuable report which was presented to them by Mr. Ballinger, very important questions arose. They came almost as novelties to one coming, like himself, from a great city such as Manchester. He was entirely unacquainted with all those diversities—some almost amusing ones—in the constitution and powers of library authorities throughout the country. It was of some importance that they should get a clear idea of what the ideal library committee ought to be. They did not find any trouble in a great city like Manchester, with a council of 104 members, in finding men admirably adapted for the work which the citizens set them to do. But he could readily understand that in smaller towns, where councils were not so large, and where probably many persons might be prepared to do some part of the public work of the town who would not pretend to be qualified to deal with that matter, it might be of the very highest importance that persons who would not take their part in the drudgery of municipal work, and yet had special knowledge fitting them to deal with books, should form a portion of the Library Committee, and one would think that in that case it would be far better that the ideal mixed committee should have ample powers. It seemed to him that if they asked the co-operation of men who had special qualities and fitness, it was rather a foolish thing to cramp and hamper them in the exercise of the duty which they imposed upon them. Mr. Dixon had reminded them of many exploded notions which it seemed still remained in Ireland, and which, probably, had not altogether died out in some parts of England, as to the objections with which the library movement had been met. The idea of bad books, the idea that a body of men selected to disseminate literature would disseminate pernicious literature, was absurd upon the face of it, and he did not think an example could be found of a library authority actually committing that evil. As to the question of cost, an instructed people would probably be a sober people, and an instructed and sober people would probably be a prosperous people, and he quite agreed with the reader of the paper in saying

that if they created an ignorant, thoughtless and vapid population, what they spent in the relief of pauperism, as a consequence of that ignorance, would probably come to a great deal more than the cost of instructing the people. The defence of all their education laws rested upon that very foundation.

Mr. RAWSON (Manchester) said he was interested to observe that in the Parish Councils Act a rate of 3d. in the pound appeared to be contemplated, and a portion of that might be applied to libraries. When they looked back to the early stages of library legislation, they found how different the ideas of legislators were then. Formerly the rate which could be applied to library purposes only amounted to ½d. in the pound. That might be explained by the fact that there was a difference of opinion as to the effect the establishment of free libraries might have. It was clear that ½d. in the pound would not suffice to promote the extension of libraries, and it was soon apparent that the evils anticipated were not realised. Then there came the time when 1d. was allowed. In some places, such as Manchester, they had managed, by the insertion more or less obscurely in local acts of special clauses, to increase the amount to 2d. He objected to the interposition of the legislature in the expending of money by localities from their own resources. The people of any district were the best and only judges of what was right and proper for them, and it was not consonant with the liberties of the English people to inflict upon them any restrictions. It was anomalous, because in all town councils the committees were free from all such restrictions in every other municipal department. Each of them was left absolutely free, having no authority to control them except the council who represented the ratepayers, and he thought it was a reflection upon library authorities that such restrictions should be imposed upon them. The older he grew the stronger he felt the force of that objection. If libraries were to be extended in the country, the removal of those petty restrictions which were founded in times of suspicion, jealousy, ignorance, and darkness seemed to be absolutely necessary. He had heard of intelligent friends in small towns who said that a 1d. rate was so meagre in their localities that no library worthy of the name could be established on it. The sooner they appealed for the abolition of these restrictions the sooner would they see that extension throughout the country which they all so earnestly desired. In Manchester, in 1851, the work proceeded thus:—First of all, a large subscription was raised in the locality for the purpose of a certain building, and also for the acquiring of a certain number of volumes, and when that was done a 1d. rate was adopted by an enormous majority of the people. They had now found it necessary, within the last two years, to apply under special clauses for an extension of that 1d. rate. They could now levy 2d.; and, as the number of books increased, and the accommodation increased, they might want more than that. As they had, as a committee, to report all their proceedings to the city council, and as those proceedings were narrowly watched by intelligent ratepayers, he could not see why they should be restricted in that matter, and be placed in an invidious position as a library committee compared with other committees. He hoped the time would come ere long when localities would be left in that matter, subject to their authorities, to deal with the question as they might determine.

Mr. B. WOOD (Bradford): Last year I had the pleasure of reading a paper on village libraries, and I should like to know how the Parish Councils Act will meet their requirements.

Mr. FOVARGUE said the parishes might adopt the Act, and then, if a scheme such as he proposed were carried into effect through each council, they could pass the books from one parish to another. He ought to have alluded to what Mr. Rawson said. He (Mr. Fovargue) had given a

wrong impression with regard to the rate. A parish council could not levy a rate of 3d. for library purposes ; the effect of the Act would be to restrict the expenditure. Where there was no parish council the rate for all purposes must not exceed 6d. in the pound ; where there was a parish council they could levy a rate of 3d. for all purposes, but that did not include the expenses under the Education Acts, which were allocated as before. The parish council could not spend more than 1d. in the pound on libraries.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL.

The CHAIRMAN said whilst they were discussing those matters, involving as they did amendments of the law in relation to libraries and changes, they might take at the same time the notices of motion to amend the Draft Bill which had been given. He thought Mr. MacAlister might now introduce them.

Mr. MACALISTER said copies of the Public Libraries Acts Amendment Bill had been sent to all the members, and he presumed they had made themselves conversant with its terms. In addition to the provisions set forth in the Bill there were certain amendments which had been suggested subsequent to those adopted, and which the Council did not feel quite prepared to incorporate in the Bill without some expression of opinion from that meeting. Copies of these amendments had also been circulated. The first, which stood in his name, related to the adoption of the Act in urban districts by popular vote in certain cases, and was as follows :—" Any ten or more voters in an urban district, in which the principal Act either has not been adopted or has been adopted with a special limitation as to the amount of the rate, or addition to a rate, which may be levied for the purposes of the Act, may, by application in writing signed by them, request the Chairman of the Urban Authority to ascertain the opinion of the voters in the district with respect to the question either of adopting the Act, whether with or without a limitation on the amount of the rate, or of raising or removing any such limitation. If within two months after the receipt of the application the Urban Authority do not pass a special resolution either adopting the Act or raising or removing the said limitation (as the case may be), then, unless the application is withdrawn by the persons who made it, or by a majority of them, the Chairman of the Urban Authority shall forthwith proceed, in accordance with section 3 of the principal Act (which section shall for this purpose apply to urban districts) to ascertain the opinion of the voters with respect to the question or questions mentioned in the application ; and on the opinion of the voters being so ascertained, effect shall be given thereto in like manner as to a special resolution of the Urban Authority under the Public Libraries (Amendment) Act, 1893." Mr. MacAlister said the object of that resolution was to restore to the ratepayers at large the power which he thought had been taken from them a little hastily. The intention was good, and the Bill was passed last year by Sir F. S. Powell, who thought it would be a very good thing to place in the hands of the authorities themselves the adoption of the Act. It had been found since, however, that that was likely to do harm as well as good, as if a reactionary or extremely servile majority prevailed in a town council there was not the slightest possibility of getting the Act adopted. This resolution aimed at restoring to the people the alternative of adopting the Act for themselves if the authority did not adopt it. There was a precedent for it within the last few weeks. An Irish Act which was only passed the other day included a clause of that very nature, and he thought there would not be the slightest difficulty in getting that amendment introduced into their Bill. He moved that it be adopted by the meeting.

Mr. J. J. OGLE (Bootle) seconded, and the amendment was adopted.

Mr. MACALISTER then moved the following resolution :—

“That in the opinion of this Association, an authority which neglects or refuses to act upon a requisition, or to carry out the Acts after adoption, should be punishable by fine.”

Mr. MacAlister said in various places, and particularly in the country in which they were then met, ratepayers had adopted the Acts by enormous majorities, and had called upon the authorities to take action without the slightest result. The case of Cork was about the worst. There they had just begun to wake up after a Rip van Winkle sleep of 35 years. There was no use having in their Act a clause which might be ignored. If they approved of the principle of his resolution, their excellent hon. solicitor and his colleague, the draughtsman, would lick the idea into proper shape for the legislature. The main object was to compel authorities to take action.

Mr. L. INKSTER (Battersea) said he approved of the idea, but he thought it might be as well if, instead of imposing a penalty, power were given to the Local Government Board to deal with the local authority and compel them to act. It always looked rather hard to put a penalty into an Act such as the Public Libraries Act.

Mr. MACALISTER : I am not sure that will help us very much. There is red-tape in the Local Government Board as well as in other public offices, and if there was nothing behind in the shape of a penalty, I do not know what they could do to help us.

Mr. FOVARGUE said the proposal related to two entirely different matters, and he thought the first one, in regard to the carrying out of the Act, might be dealt with as in the Irish Act, by giving the Local Government Board power to appoint some other body to carry it into effect. It was difficult to impose a penalty on a local authority, for by so doing they practically fined the ratepayers. With regard to failing to act upon a requisition, a penalty might be imposed there, because that generally affected one individual.

Mr. MACALISTER said that Mr. Fovargue's suggestions would meet his views.

Mr. INKSTER said Mr. Fovargue had also interpreted his meaning.

After a little further discussion, the meeting approved of the addition of a clause to the effect that if action is not taken within three years by any local or other authority to give effect to a vote adopting the Act for any district, the Local Government Board shall take action.

Mr. FOVARGUE said the second part of the resolution provided that if any authority failed to comply with any requisition to ascertain the opinion of the voters on any question under the Acts, a penalty should be imposed.

The CHAIRMAN said he himself shared the difficulties about such penalties. He had seen so many cases where penalties were abused. The penalty was nothing ; the persons paid it and went on again. Then, again, by inflicting a penalty they would be fining the community.

Mr. FOVARGUE : This fine would fall upon an individual. It would be the chairman of the parish meeting or of the parish council.

The CHAIRMAN put the motion :—

“That Mr. Fovargue shall prepare a second clause by which a penalty shall be imposed upon the responsible person who does not, within three weeks, proceed to take a poll after a statutory requisition.”

The motion was carried.

Mr. MACALISTER moved a further amendment in favour of the insertion of a clause (as suggested by Dr. Garnett in his address on the

opening day) to protect public libraries from actions for libel. He said the amendment presented many difficulties, but still he had no doubt those difficulties could be overcome. The members knew the serious action which had recently been taken against the British Museum by an American lady, Mrs. Woodhull Martin, of whom he wished to speak in the highest terms of respect lest she should bring an action against him. The museum authorities were put to great trouble and expense, and other librarians who possessed the same book were in fear of Mrs. Martin taking proceedings against them.

Mr. BALLINGER seconded, and the motion was passed.

On the proposition of Mr. F. J. BURGOVNE (Lambeth), it was agreed to substitute the words "vestry, town council, or urban sanitary authority" for the word "voters" in line 36, page 2, of the draft bill.

Two other suggested amendments were allowed to drop in the absence of the gentlemen who had given the notices of motion.

Mr. R. J. BROWN (Ayr) said with regard to the rating of public libraries, the opinion had been expressed there and unanimously agreed to, that a penny rate was insufficient for the maintenance of a great many of the libraries in the kingdom. The suggestion made by one gentleman was, he thought, worthy of adoption, viz., that every authority should be entitled to a rate for the sum that was required. Meantime, however, he would propose that the clause exempting public libraries from taxation should be adopted by that conference.

The CHAIRMAN : But it is in the draft ; it is the third clause in the proposed Bill to which we are now considering amendments. (The Chairman read the clause.)

Mr. BROWN : That is what I refer to ; and I would like to propose that that clause be extended to Scotland, Wales and Ireland. So far as I understand, local authorities have it in their option to exempt libraries from taxation, but we would like it left not to their option, but embodied in the Act and extended to the three kingdoms.

Mr. FOVARGUE said he took it there was no desire that that clause should apply only to England, and he thought the amendment suggested could be effected.

Mr. INKSTER seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

REMOVAL OF RATE LIMIT.

Mr. BALLINGER said he thought Mr. Rawson had let fall some remarks which should not be lightly passed by, on that important question when they were about to take steps to considerably remodel the Libraries Act. In order that they might discuss the question of the limit upon the rate for library purposes he would move "that it be an instruction to insert in the new Bill a clause to remove the restriction upon the rate for library purposes."

Mr. OGLE : I would second that if it be made not to apply to London. The circumstances of London and the country are so different that there would be more chance if it were omitted for the present. I think it would be better to limit this proposal to districts outside London.

The CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ballinger is quite prepared to accept the limitation.

Mr. DIXON : I should like to suggest that that should also be extended to Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Mr. FOVARGUE : In my opinion you are going to hamper the adoption of the Acts in places where they have not been adopted. Of course, it is very well where towns have got their libraries and find them useful and growing and wanting more money, but what is the effect upon the other

parts of the United Kingdom where there is not this limit? The rate-payers say: "We don't know how much you may spend"; but when it is only 1d. they cannot say that.

Mr. DOUBLEDAY (London) said he would like to support Mr. Fovargue in what he said, because he had had some considerable experience in London upon that point. The opponents of the movement always said: "It is only 1d. now, but no one knows what it may be in a few years." Whilst he agreed as to the inadequacy of the 1d. rate, he thought it would be inexpedient, with regard to those places which had not yet adopted the Act, to pass that resolution.

Mr. J. R. HUMPHERY (London) said it must always be borne in mind that London was at least fifty years behind Manchester as far as that question was concerned. He said that as a Londoner born. It was with extreme difficulty that they could get even a 1d. rate out of the poor Londoner. The determined opposition of certain journals to the movement was due, he believed, to a knowledge of the fact that if the people were made intelligent they would not tolerate such papers.

Mr. G. F. HILCKEN (Bethnal Green) endorsed fully the remarks of the two previous speakers. In the East End of London there was that one great argument against the movement—that the rate was liable to be increased, the same as the School Board rates were.

The CHAIRMAN: I think after the expression of opinion on the part of this meeting we should perhaps be making better haste by not attempting to press this resolution at this particular time. I own that coming from Manchester I was quite astonished to learn the feeling that existed in places like London upon this matter, because it seemed to me such a self-evident matter that the people themselves should have equal right to know what they should spend upon books as upon other things, but if the friends of libraries find it would do evil, instead of promoting their work, it would be unwise to pass the resolution.

Mr. HUMPHERY: When a boy I read almost the first annual report of the Manchester library, and it fired me with library enthusiasm. I was in the parish of St. Pancras, and yet after all these years St. Pancras is not wise enough to come up to my poor standard of library wisdom. I agree with Mr. Rawson that the people of each district should be the best judges about the spending of their money.

Mr. G. L. CAMPBELL: Everything that has been said about London is applicable to the town of Scarborough. We have been defeated there once, and one of the greatest arguments brought against us was that at meetings of our Association there had been an alteration of the rate advocated.

Mr. INKSTER (Battersea): I should like to say a word of encouragement to the London members. Mr. John Burns, M.P., told me that it is the intention of the Progressive party in the London County Council, when they get fuller powers, to have the entire control of the libraries in London, and compel every parish to adopt the Act, and increase the rate at the discretion of the County Council. The Council are determined after this next election to get more power, if possible, and when they get that power you may depend they will use it.

Mr. J. D. BUCKLAND (Stockport): I should like to ask a question as to the adoption of the Museums and Gymnasium Act. Our Council adopted it by formal resolution, and then the Town Clerk refused to carry it out. He said the Museums and Gymnasium Act said this extra rate could only be obtained by those museums established under that special Act. Our museum cripples us to the extent of rather more than a quarter of our income. Is the Town Clerk right?

Mr. FOVARGUE took a note of this point in order to consider it afterwards.

Mr. RAWSON said he was responsible for the introduction of that resolution, and he did not regret it, but he thought it would now be better to withdraw it.

Mr. BALLINGER agreed to this course, and the resolution was withdrawn.

The Bill as amended was then formally adopted.

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Mr. CHARLES WELCH, librarian of the Guildhall Library, London, to read his paper on

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN LONDON: A REVIEW OF ITS PROGRESS, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS CONSOLIDATION AND EXTENSION.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 97.)

Mr. BURGOYNE (Lambeth) said to a great extent he quite agreed with what Mr. Welch had said, but he had a little underrated the value of the lending libraries of the metropolis. There was a wonderful amount of difference between a lending library of the present day and that of twenty-five years ago, when he first entered on library work. At Birmingham, when he was a lad, it was the rule that no book should be placed in the lending library which cost more than five shillings. That was a principle which had been ignored in the majority of lending libraries. The great issue of fiction in proportion to the more expensive books placed in the library was due to some extent to the latter not being allowed to be taken out of the building. Nearly all the London libraries which called themselves lending libraries, to a certain extent let the books other than fiction be read in the reading rooms, and there was a lot of reference work done in that way which did not show. In their six branches they took no record of the books lent in that way, and quite fifty or sixty books are issued each day. With regard to the duplication of expensive books, that was a serious evil. A little time ago they had offered a cheap copy of their best local history of Surrey. He very nearly bought it, but before doing so he thought: "This is the key-stone of our local history, but it is a lot of money; I will see if there is one close at hand." Within a circle of a mile and a-half he found that there were three copies of the work. He, therefore, did not buy the book. He found the same thing held good with other expensive books. He knew three libraries in the same circle which had sets of the Harleian Society's publications. If something could be done in the way of preventing libraries duplicating these books it would be a very useful result of Mr. Welch's paper.

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Mr. J. J. OGLE to read his paper on:—

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEES AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL BODIES.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 129.)

This paper pointed out that the Public Library Acts recognise Public Library Committees as educational authorities capable of carrying out a not inconsiderable part of secondary education. Experience of the work carried on by them justifies a better recognition of the value of their work. Both overlapping and comparative inefficiency of educational work might be prevented by an official representation of the Public Library Committee along with other educational bodies on a general

town or district educational board, consisting partly of elected and partly of co-opted members. Such a body should supersede the School Board and be a committee of the local rating authority. Many facts were given in support of the main contention of the paper. The representation of Public Libraries' interests on Provincial Education Departmental Boards was also advocated.

The CHAIRMAN said they found in Manchester, that public bodies having somewhat similar objects, frequently for lack of co-operation overlapped in what they did, and sometimes that led to expenditure which might under other circumstances, as indicated by Mr. Ogle, be saved. He did not know whether any objections occurred to the minds of any present against the modes suggested by Mr. Ogle of the direct representation of the public library committee upon other institutions where their technical knowledge and peculiar position would enable them to be of service. They had found, for instance, in connection with the Art School, an expensive book, perhaps worth twenty or thirty or sixty guineas, had been offered to the library—an invaluable work for students of arts, a work which the town ought to possess—but whether it should be in the possession of the library committee or the managing committee of the Art School was a question which arose. In a case of that sort it was quite conceivable that two public bodies appointed from the same source, and with the same authority, might each be doing what the other would efficiently do, and that if there was some person having common knowledge upon both authorities such work would not be duplicated. The line they took as a policy in Manchester was this—if in any direction of special knowledge there were required works of reference of an expensive character, which students must consult in order to be proficient in their studies, they laid themselves out to provide those works.

THE CONSTITUTION OF COLONIAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

A paper on this subject, by Mr. J. R. Boosé, Librarian of the Royal Colonial Institute, was read by Mr. MacAlister in the absence of the writer.

The CHAIRMAN said Mr. Boosé's paper was not one which lent itself to discussion, but it gave them valuable information as to the extension of free libraries throughout the Colonies.

This concluded the business of the section, and a vote of thanks was, on the motion of Mr. W. LANE JOYNT, D.L. (Dublin), seconded by Mr. C. GATEHOUSE (Birkenhead), accorded to the Chairman.

SECTION B: LIBRARY MANAGEMENT.

Chairman.—Peter Cowell, Liverpool.

Recorder.—Thomas Mason, St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Miss PETHERBRIDGE to read her paper on :—

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY SCHOOL.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 65.)

The special points in this paper were : (1) The origin of the American Library School, its scheme of work and methods of carrying it out. The aim and object of such a school and the testimony of well-known librarians as to the need of training for librarianship. The influence the school exerts on the library world in America specially with reference to salaries,

status and efficiency of librarians, with cross references to the personal influence of Mr. Dewey and his colleagues. The spirit of enthusiasm and energy that characterises the students, which is carried on into their after work, becoming the real reason that some of the best work done in the libraries in the States is done by the library school graduates. (2) The benefits to be derived from the establishment of a similar modified scheme in this country, and the desirability of classes in library science being started at University College in connection with the ordinary college course.

after which it was agreed to hear Miss James's paper on the

BOSTON HOME LIBRARIES,

before taking the discussion.

The discussion was opened by a few remarks from the Chairman.

Mr. FRANK CAMPBELL said that he was extremely thankful that the subject of a National School of Librarians had been raised, for there was no more important one affecting librarians. The only preliminary suggestion he was disposed to make was to give due importance to the subject by at once changing the term *School* to *College*, a term already made use of in the *Review of Reviews*, in connection with a "College of Indexers." Considering the importance of the subject he thought that the advisability of the general idea could not be canvassed, and that it was rather a matter for discussion as to how best to put the project into execution. Reference had been made to the possibility of instituting the School in connection with University College. He had no special knowledge about that institution, but considered it highly improbable that there would be accommodation existing for the proposed School. Furthermore, he thought that the connection with any existing institutions might be a possible hindrance instead of a help. It might, however, be a matter of absolute necessity to court such an alliance for financial reasons. On this head, however, he thought that if a definite programme were put forward, and request made for financial aid, that there were many public-spirited men who would come forward and subscribe ten and twenty thousand pounds for the purpose. The speaker laid great stress on the need for a distinct and definite building. When it was considered what sums of money had been subscribed for other purposes—take such an institution as Holloway College—why should librarians be more humble in their legitimate demands for the support of an institution so necessary to the progress of their profession? But how was the project to be commenced? Reference to the past transactions of the association would reveal that, although a very large number of papers had been read since the year 1877, on projects of the greatest practical importance (relating to theories of bibliography), the number of papers which had never been acted upon was very large. He feared that a similar fate might befall the present paper for lack of a permanent body pledged to the continuous investigation of the subject. He, therefore, hoped that the Council of the Association would use its recently acquired powers to institute a special committee to report upon the subject and draw up a definite programme, and that some such assurance might be held out at once. If this were done, and the programme made known to the public, he felt sure that the money required would be forthcoming, and one of the most necessary requirements of the library profession supplied.

Mr. FORMBY (Liverpool) said: As a tolerably diligent student of American library literature for nearly thirty-nine years, he could not help thinking, in spite of all we have heard and read during the last twelve months, that we are greatly indebted to our American brethren for

improvements and new methods in connection with our English libraries. If these improvements and methods were not absolutely new inventions, they had at least been brought to the front, utilised, and made generally available by the enterprise, pluck, and perseverance of our brothers and sisters across "the silver streak." He made special mention of the Boston Library Reports as containing a mass of valuable information, as also the *American Library Journal*.

Mr. MACLAUCHLAN (Dundee) : The Chairman has suggested that it is, perhaps, desirable to consider whether it is necessary to artificially stimulate the natural supply of library assistants, and there is only too much truth in this. The difficulty in this country has always been to find situations for the junior assistants after their training has been completed, or to give them adequate salaries if their services are retained. Certainly we all agree in the necessity of a proper training for junior library assistants, and indeed, for senior assistants as well ; but there are no lack of highly educated applicants for vacancies, the supply even of such, very greatly exceeding the demand : this is astonishing, considering the poor salaries usually paid.

Mr. R. W. MOULD (London) : The success of the summer school seems to point to need for a library school ; and there is no doubt that the improved circumstances of the libraries of the future will admit of the introduction of specially trained assistants.

Mr. D. WATSON (Hawick) : The conditions in the United States are somewhat different from those in this country, as I understand funds are available from public lands and similar sources, without having recourse to the direct taxation which we are compelled to adopt here. I think our own Association is taking steps, by their examinations for library assistants, to train as many librarians as we can find places for ; and the idea of a college for librarians, for whom no places could be found, must, I fear, be relegated to the future, which one speaker has indicated, when private generosity can be relied on to expend £50,000 or £60,000 for this purpose. We had better first create a demand for librarians.

Mr. RADFORD (Nottingham) suggested that pending the founding of a college for librarians, that it will be very useful to country assistants, could the Council of the Library Association of the United Kingdom hold sections of the summer school in one or two centres in the country in addition to the one held in London. This is only thrown out as a suggestion for the consideration of the Council, to enable assistants, at a great distance from London, to reap some benefit from the school.

Mr. MASON (London) observed, in reply to Mr. Radford that it would be difficult to hold a summer school in the country, as London possessed many advantages over any other city in the country. Mr. Mason did not think that it would be worth while educating students for any of the junior offices in a library, but rather for cataloguers and chief officers ; and, if they did that they introduced competitors against their staffs, and discouraged their own assistants.

Mr. J. H. QUINN (Chelsea) agreed with Mr. Mason's views that the greater part of the work of the lending library was mechanical, and, in Chelsea, was very well performed by school-boys ; and the result was, that the permanent staff was small indeed, and there was little likelihood, in the face of present requirements, to find appointments for those trained in a library school. The supply being greater than the demand, salaries would be lower even than at present.

Miss JAMES (London) : Other libraries exist besides the Free Public Libraries under the Acts ; vacancies occur in these. The best only are wanted ; and practical knowledge is as essential as literary intelligence or acumen.

Mr. E. R. N. MATHEWS (Bristol) : It cannot be doubted that while

the best training school for library assistants is the public library itself, so with reference to the previous speaker's claim for local museums (wherein may be exhibited the various appliances for library administration) the best, and in fact only, building for such exhibition must necessarily be the public library.

Messrs. JOSEPH GILBERT and MADELEY also took part in the discussion.

Miss PETHERBRIDGE (in reply) said that the lending department was not the only one, or the most important. Salaries ought to increase. To talk of those assistants who are merely automata was not to the point. If they stay where they are, it is because they are not worth a better position. Only a very limited number of trained students would be turned out every year. The small libraries in America were ahead of us in enthusiasm and "go-aheadness," also in the free sharing of any new ideas that may be of advantage in a library.

Mr. MAYHEW'S paper describing the new

REVOLVING PIVOT PRESSES AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 10)

was read in his absence by Mr. Mason, and afterwards, Dr. GARNETT read his paper on

THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SPACE IN LIBRARIES.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 11.)

This was described as supplementary to Mr. Mayhew's paper on the Pivot Press. After dwelling on the adaptability of this useful invention to the needs of libraries requiring additional space, he expressed his fear that this all-important question was too little attended to in the planning of free libraries. At present it might not be urgent, nor would it ever become so if free libraries were destined to result in failure. But if they attained the success which it was the object of the Association to promote, it would, in course of time, become a very vital question indeed, and insuperable difficulties would frequently be found in the way of providing additional space by additional buildings. Mechanical contrivances, such as the sliding and the pivot press, would have to be resorted to; and attention would have to be paid to Mr. Virgo's ingenious contrivances, which it was to be wished the inventor would make more widely known. It might sometimes be desirable to take a hint from the inscribed cylinders of Assyrian libraries, and to construct presses in the form of hexagonal prisms, the most economical of any as regards space, especially for the custody or display of valuable objects. Show-case room could be provided by affixing light tables with glazed tops, running on wheels to admit of their withdrawal, when necessary, to the lower part of book-presses.

Mr. YATES : Thanks to Dr. Garnett for his able paper, but in the provinces our great question is, how to utilise the existing shelf-room for new literature. This paper refers to a question I raised (with provincial audacity) at the first meeting of librarians in 1877, that the duplicates and triplicates should be distributed from the British Museum, either as loans or permanent gifts. My proposition was replied to by Mr. Edward Peacock, of Bottesford Brigg, who stated how useful to visitors it was, when the first copy being in the hands of another reader, the second at the binders, to be able to use the third copy. Later in the day, I visited the British Museum reading-room, and was told by a member of the staff that duplicates were never catalogued, but shot into a suite of rooms.

monopolising the room of more current literature. Recently, the trustees acted upon my suggestion, and distributed them. Leeds got a ton and a-half of English Parliamentary Blue Books (1650-1840). Manchester, I do not know how many foreign Blue Books. Another library within almost a stone's throw of Bloomsbury had the selection of some thousands of volumes.

The CHAIRMAN then called for the next paper by Messrs. J. HENRY QUINN and J. D. BROWN on :—

THE CLERKENWELL OPEN LENDING LIBRARY.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VI., p. 344.)

It described in full detail the changes made and methods employed under the new plan of allowing readers to choose books for themselves from open shelves. Locked wickets used to prevent ingress of unqualified borrowers, or egress of readers till books are registered. Books closely classified and marked with coloured labels, to enable misplacements to be at once detected. Charging system described, together with various devices used to enable whereabouts of any particular book to be found ; if readers have books out ; and what books are out or overdue. Losses in four months, out of nearly 40,000 issues, after taking stock of over 4,000 volumes, *nil*. Experience proving that most of obvious objections to the system—crowding, misplacing, stealing, &c.—not likely to occur to any extent if proper arrangements made to meet new conditions created. Saving anticipated on staff, cataloguing and stationery. Catalogue not to be abandoned as imagined by some, but to be continued on different and more suitable lines. So far as experience goes, no complaint from readers, but strong approval of new system.

Mr. Fincham opened this discussion, and was followed by Mr. Quinn, who read a paper on

A SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION FOR OPEN LIBRARIES.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 75.)

It proposed a close and strict classification of books on shelves, with ample provision of class and subject guides or labels on presses. Subjects like Botany, London, &c., to be arranged in author alphabet, under respective classes, and large main classes, Fiction, Poetry and Juvenile, to be also arranged in alphabetical order. Notation for classification purposes only, and symbols not to be used in catalogue as call numbers. Accession numbers to be used for all purposes connected with cataloguing, charging, and registration. Shelves to be permanently numbered, and a location or place-finding book to be used. Points out different requirements of classifications in libraries which are open and closed to the public, and gives as an appendix a very elastic scheme of classification and a method of adapting it to the books of a library.

Mr. J. YATES : I understood at the meeting at Aberdeen last year, that Mr. Brown stated that he had found nothing worthy of imitation in the United States' library economy. Yet I am astonished to find that he has got his committee to adopt a suggestion which was submitted to the United States, meeting (1887) at the Thousand Isles, to allow the public to have free access to the books in the lending libraries. This I objected to, proving that the public could not help themselves as quickly as under the present system. Leeds has its twenty-eight thousand borrowers of home literature, issues average one thousand per day, and fifteen hundred to two thousand on the Saturdays. These revolutionary measures are adopted by new and small libraries, and are consequently misleading.

Mr. RADFORD asked why books which were not used in the lending library should be placed in the reference department, thus making it a

deposit for unsuitable surplusage from the other department. He expressed approval of the alphabetical arrangement on the shelves, which he had used in his own library for several years. He also stated that he was against the use of the paper labels on the back of the books, but preferred that the press number should be lettered on the binding by the book-binder. Mr. Radford enquired what was the greatest number of borrowers in the library at a time on the busiest day of the week. It was admitted that it was a benefit for the readers to refer to a book before taking it out for reading. With reference to the catalogue not stating what is out of date or not, Mr. Radford's opinion was that any good modern catalogue refuted this statement. With reference to elaborate cataloguing not being needed, Mr. Radford stated that a catalogue was needed, because if you had a popular book like Stanley's *Darkest Africa*, of which he had ten copies in the lending library for about eighteen months, there was never a copy in for more than a day in the lending library, which meant that a borrower was fortunate if he knew what books were in stock, and could be loaned, and thus a catalogue was still required.

Mr. COTGREAVE: It is a well-known fact that many of the borrowers always send messengers, who cannot be capable of choosing suitable books for those who send them; therefore, to such borrowers the advantages of free access is lost. It is also well-known that the titles on the backs of books are frequently illegible, especially in the case of popular books.

Mr. E. R. NORRIS MATHEWS (Bristol) agreed with a former speaker that the scheme could only be considered as experimental; he thought that while entertaining the highest appreciation of the ingenuity displayed by Mr. Brown, it would have been better, in his opinion, had the matter not been advertised before the new scheme had been tried for a reasonable period. In his (the speaker's) former experience, when in charge of a large proprietary library, it was distinctly the exception for a reader to return a book to its proper place on the shelves.

Mr. DENT thought that the system in general use afforded a better opportunity for making choice of books by the leisurely perusal of the catalogue, rather than would be the case in a hurried glance at the bookshelves in the library itself.

Mr. W. CROWTHER (as the result of a visit with an open mind, and examination of the working at Clerkenwell) was of opinion that the system had been thoughtfully worked out, and seemed fenced round with every possible safeguard and was being intelligently worked. Difficulty would seem to be in adaptation of existing premises to such a plan; in his own case it would be simply impossible. The main objections seemed to be the "browsing" difficulty and the "messenger" question.

Mr. J. MACLAUCHLAN said he would not have taken part in the discussion had it not been that one of the departments of his library had been worked on Mr. Brown's system for nearly twenty years. They had not experienced the evils foretold by some of the previous speakers—books had not been misplaced to any extent, and no books had been stolen. On the other hand the construction of some of the other departments of the library rendered the adoption of Mr. Brown's plan almost impossible. Their library had been designed by the greatest architect of the century, and he had placed bookshelves 16 ft. high. But where the plan is possible it ought to be tried, and Mr. Brown is entitled to warm praise for this and many other improvements.

Mr. FORMBY (Liverpool) called attention to a discussion at a recent American Library Association Conference on the subject under debate. The Rev. E. C. Richardson, Librarian of the Princeton Library, New Jersey, well-known to many of those present as attending our Glasgow Conference, said: "Owing to their system of free access to books by

readers, they lost in one year one thousand volumes." This statement needed no comment—it told its own tale. The fact ought not to be lost sight of in discussing this question, that local conditions and circumstances had to be considered. A system which might be a success in, for instance, Cambridge, Oxford, Cheltenham, or Leamington and similar residential towns, would probably be quite unsuitable for large busy seaports with immense, constantly-changing populations like Liverpool and Glasgow.

The Chairman and Mr. Madeley also spoke.

Before concluding the meeting the Chairman expressed regret that, owing to lack of time, the following papers would have to be taken as read :—

ACCEPTABLE FREE LIBRARY CATALOGUES ;
by Mr. Henry E. Curran, Liverpool.
(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 21.)

A DEFENCE OF CENTRAL LENDING LIBRARIES ;
by Mr. John Maclauchlan, Dundee, and

CLASSIFICATION IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES ; WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM ;
by L. Stanley Jast.
(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 169.)

Section B. then adjourned.

SECTION C : LIBRARY HISTORY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Chairman.—Mr. Henry R. Tedder.

Recorder.—Mr. J. P. Edmond.

The following papers were read, but time did not allow of any discussions :—

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN THE WEST
OF ENGLAND AND THEIR CAUSES ;
by Mr. W. H. K. Wright, Public Librarian, Plymouth.

This paper briefly placed upon record the remarkable growth of free public libraries in Cornwall, since the visit of the L.A.U.K. to Plymouth in 1885. Full details were given of the "Ferris Bequest," and of the unbounded liberality of Mr. Passmore Edwards in providing buildings and books in several towns in his native county. Incidentally, Mr. Wright dealt with the libraries at Exeter, Devonport and Plymouth, their progress and prospects.

OLA MSS. AND THE GOVERNMENT ORIENTAL LIBRARY OF CEYLON ;
by Mr. Gerard A. Joseph, Librarian of the Government Museum,
Colombo.

(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 269.)

Describing with great minuteness the ancient *olas* of Ceylon and what was being done by the Government for their collection and preservation.

THE LIBRARIES OF CANADA ;
by Mr. James Bain, Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Library.
(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 241.)

An exhaustive account of the rise and progress of these institutions from the Conquest until the present time.

A SUGGESTION TO FOUNDERS OF LIBRARIES ;
by Mr. Henry R. Tedder, Librarian of the Athenæum.

The author said that those about to endow libraries usually have in mind to establish libraries for general reading. It is proposed that they should turn their attention to specialising their gifts to the public. General libraries are now being erected in every important town throughout the United Kingdom by means of the Public Libraries Acts, yet individual donors still continue to build and endow general collections, which might, in most cases, be left to local and public enterprise. An instance of such a special library in a certain way may be found in the great collection of early printed books now in process of arrangement at Manchester—the magnificent endowment of Mrs. Rylands. As examples of some classes of literature, which might form the subject of future special collections, Mr. Tedder gave details of what he would suggest for the organisation of great libraries devoted to: (1) Bibliography; (2) The History of the British Empire; (3) Periodical Literature.

THE SPENSER SOCIETY AND ITS WORK ;
by Mr. W. E. A. Axon, F.R.S.L., Manchester,
(LIBRARY, Vol. VII., p. 201.)

gave a complete descriptive account of the many rarities published by this now extinct Society.

Shortly after one o'clock the members of the various sections assembled in the library for the closing business of the meeting. Mr. Southern presided.

AN INVITATION FROM MANCHESTER.

The CHAIRMAN said that in Manchester they had felt for a considerable time that they would like to see the Library Association meeting in their city again. He understood that for next year London had been chosen as the place of meeting, but he would like to put in a claim to ear-mark 1896 for the meeting of the Association at Manchester, subject to this one condition—that they had ready for their inspection the Althorpe Library, in future to be the Rylands Library. His committee had hoped to have been able to have invited the Association for next year, but when he wrote to Mrs. Rylands, asking whether the library would be ready for inspection in 1895, from her reply he gathered that there was considerable doubt on that point. Subject to the library being ready for 1896, he would like to bespeak the visit of the Association to Manchester in that year. They had now in that city fourteen libraries, in addition to their really fine central library, and the extent to which they were distributing useful literature would be shown when he stated that for the month of July there was an increase of 49,500 in the number of volumes issued, as compared with the corresponding month of the previous year, or 641 volumes per day over and above the dissemination of books in 1893.

Alderman RAWSON (Manchester) said that by the vote of the library committee of Manchester he was authorised to supplement the remarks of the Chairman. When the members came to Manchester they would be able to take them down the Ship Canal to Liverpool.

On the motion of Mr. MacAlister the invitation from Manchester was cordially accepted, and Messrs. Rawson and Southern were requested to convey the hearty thanks of the Association to the Manchester Corporation.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. W. LANE JOYNT said the members of the Association had been most hospitably received in that college, a most suitable place for their meeting, and that hall, surrounded by the immortal names whose books they saw around them, was the most appropriate place they could find in the United Kingdom for a gathering of librarians. He remembered when Dr. Henry presided there, and he remembered with what respect he was treated by everyone. He knew what invaluable services that college had rendered to the North of Ireland, and he trusted it would always continue to render such services, and that the thanks they now offered to the learned president would be re-echoed by many a subsequent assembly met with kindred objects and for kindred purposes. He had pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the president and council of the college for the use of the building.

Mr. C. WELCH (London) seconded the motion, and it was cordially adopted.

Alderman RAWSON (Manchester) moved a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor of Belfast and the local committee for the very admirable entertainment the members had received at their hands during the course of that conference. Nothing could exceed their courtesy and kindness, and they were especially grateful to the Lord Mayor for his enjoyable garden party, where everything that kind thoughtfulness, and munificence could obtain was provided for their entertainment. The local committee had been most kind, and they owed them a deep debt of thanks. It would be the object of their Manchester friends, if the Association honoured them with a visit, to emulate the example shown in Belfast, and if they could equal it it would be well.

Alderman B. S. JOHNSON, Mayor of Bootle, seconded, and the vote was enthusiastically adopted.

Mr. W. H. K. WRIGHT (Plymouth) proposed that the thanks of the Association be given to the managers of libraries and institutions and to the heads of business establishments and manufactories who had extended hospitality to them during the week. Some of the places they had visited in that great city had impressed the members very much, and, doubtless, the other places they were to visit that day would also impress them with the great capabilities of Belfast.

The motion was seconded by Mr. H. R. Tedder (London), and carried.

On the proposition of Mr. G. L. Campbell, J.P. (Wigan), seconded by Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister (honorary secretary), thanks were accorded to the Press of Belfast for the cordial support extended to the Association.

Mr. W. LANE JOYNT moved that a vote of thanks be passed to the local honorary secretaries—Professor Meissner, Mr. G. H. Elliott, and Mr. G. Smith—for their valuable services. Alluding to Mr. Elliott, Mr. Joynt said that gentleman had a palatial building for his library, and he hoped it would soon be crowded by the books bought by the Belfast Corporation. He trusted Mr. Elliott would long be spared to assist in the culture of the population of the metropolis—he must not say the metropolis of Ireland, or he dared not return to Dublin—but he would say the metropolis of the energy, the work, the spirit, the commerce, and the pride of Ulster.

Mr. J. YATES (Leeds) seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

Professor MEISSNER, in responding, said the pleasure the members of the Association had expressed had been a sufficient reward to the secretaries for their trouble.

Mr. ELLIOTT said the people of Belfast were delighted to have the members of the Association amongst them, for persons coming there as they did got information about Belfast and the North of Ireland which they could not get otherwise.

Mr. SMITH also responded.

The result of the polling for the election of office-bearers at the Business Meeting on the previous evening was then announced by Mr. Alphæus Smith (Peckham), as follows :—

President.—The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, K.P., G.C.B.

Vice-Presidents.—Francis T. Barrett, Librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow ; John Potter Briscoe, Librarian, Public Libraries, Nottingham ; George Bullen, C.B., LL.D., late Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum ; Peter Cowell, Librarian, Public Libraries, Liverpool ; W. Ralph Douthwaite, Librarian, Gray's Inn Library ; W. Lane Joynt, D.L., Dublin ; J. D. Mullins, Librarian, Public Libraries, Birmingham ; Alderman Harry Rawson, Public Libraries Committee, Manchester ; C. W. Sutton, Librarian, Public Libraries, Manchester ; Sam. Timmins, J.P., Public Libraries Committee, Birmingham ; Charles Welch, Librarian, Guildhall Library, London ; W. H. K. Wright, Librarian, Public Library, Plymouth.¹

Hon. Treasurer.—Henry R. Tedder, The Athenæum, Pall Mall.

Hon. Solicitor.—H. W. Fovargue, Town Clerk, Eastbourne.

Hon. Secretary.—J. Y. W. MacAlister, 20, Hanover Square.

Hon. Auditors.—T. J. Agar, Chartered Accountant, 9, Bucklersbury, E.C. ; G. R. Humphery, Deptford.

London Members of Council.—J. B. Bailey, Librarian, Royal College of Surgeons ; E. M. Borrajo, Sub-Librarian, Guildhall Library, London ; J. D. Brown, Librarian, Public Library, Clerkenwell ; F. J. Burgoyne, Librarian, Public Libraries, Lambeth ; Cecil T. Davis, Librarian, Public Library, Wandsworth ; H. W. Fincham, Commissioner of the Public Library, Clerkenwell ; Joseph Gilburt, Day's Library, Mount Street, W. ; Lawrence Inkster, Librarian, Public Libraries, Battersea ; Thomas Mason, Librarian, Public Library, St. Martin-in-the-Fields ; Professor Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart., Hon. Librarian Alpine Club ; J. Henry Quinn, Librarian, Public Libraries, Chelsea ; J. Reed Welch, Librarian, Public Library, Clapham.

Country Members of Council.—John Anderson, J.P., Linen Hall Library Committee, Belfast ; W. E. A. Axon, 47, Derby Street, Moss Side, Manchester ; Alderman Sir William H. Bailey, Public Library Committee, Salford ; John Ballinger, Librarian, Public Libraries, Cardiff ; Alderman W. H. Brittain, Public Library Committee, Sheffield ; George Lamb Campbell, J.P., Public Library Committee, Wigan ; Councillor Cedric Chivers, Bath ; W. Crowther, Librarian, Public Library, Derby ; R. K. Dent, Librarian, Public Library, Aston Manor ; G. Hall Elliott, Librarian, Public Library, Belfast ; H. T. Folkard, Librarian, Public Library, Wigan ; T. W. Hand, Librarian, Public Library, Oldham ; T. G. Law, Librarian, Signet Library, Edinburgh ; C. Madeley, Librarian, The Museum, Warrington ; W. May, Librarian, Public Library, Birkenhead ; J. J. Ogle, Librarian, Public Library, Bootle ; A. W. Robertson, Librarian, Public Library, Aberdeen ; Councillor Southern, Chairman Public Libraries Committee, Manchester ; Butler Wood, Librarian, Public Libraries, Bradford ; J. Yates, Librarian, Public Library, Leeds.

VISIT TO CENTRES OF INDUSTRY.

In the afternoon the members of the Association visited the Queen's Island Shipbuilding Yard and other industrial centres. The party, numbering over a hundred, and accompanied by the local secretaries, left the Linen Hall at two o'clock, and their departure was marked by an outburst of sunshine, which greatly added to the pleasure of the drive through the city. It was arranged that the manufactory of the Belfast

¹ Mr. Wright was elected by the Council to fill the place of Mr. Archer, of Dublin, who declined to serve.

Ropeworks Company, Limited, should receive primary attention from the visitors, and thither eight well-equipped brakes, supplied by Mr. Adam Turner, proceeded. The party having been divided into sections, the tour of inspection commenced, and the visitors made a rapid though comprehensive survey of the works, which employ some thousand hands. The various departments were inspected, and all branches of the industry were explained and shown to the visitors, from the teasing of the hemp and manilla until it had been spun into the heaviest cables or the lightest twine. The different descriptions of machinery employed were examined with much interest, and none more so than that used in the coiling and balling room. On leaving the manufactory the visitors were presented with a well-illustrated account of the works. The Queen's Island was the next place on the list, and thither the party were rapidly driven. Here they were received by Mr. Walter H. Wilson, member of the firm of Messrs. Harland and Wolff, and Mr. A. M. Carlisle, manager, who conducted them over the works, and pointed out to them the various features likely to interest the ordinary visitor. The visitors were impressed with the magnitude and extent of the works, which has attained a world-wide reputation by the building of such Atlantic greyhounds as the "Majestic" and "Teutonic." Some idea of the character and excellence of the work turned out by the firm was afforded the visitors on their inspection of the magnificent steamers "Norman" and "Guelph," recently built for the Union Steamship Company, which were lying in the Abercorn Basin. The York Street Flax Spinning Company's and Ewart's mills were afterwards visited, and the members of the Association expressed themselves delighted with what they saw at these representative establishments engaged in the manufacture of the staple industry of the North of Ireland.

ANNUAL DINNER.

In the evening the annual dinner of the Association was given in the Grand Central Hotel. The company was large and representative, and Dr. Garnett, ex-president, occupied the chair, in the absence of the president, the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava. On his right sat the Lord Mayor (Mr. Wm. M^cCammond, J.P.), and on his left Mr. James Henderson, J.P., chairman of the local committee. The other guests included:—Sir Daniel Dixon, J.P.; Sir James H. Haslett, J.P.; Messrs. James Musgrave, J.P.; Samuel Lawther, J.P.; L. M. Ewart, J.P.; R. H. Baird, J.P.; R. L. Patterson, J.P.; John Ward, J.P.; F. D. Ward, J.P.; J. C. C. Payne, J.P.; H. O. Lanyon, Andrew Gibson, Robert Young, C.E.; R. M. Young, Wm. Gray, M.R.I.A.; Wm. Weir, F. W. Moneypenny, J. Vinycomb, W. Morgan, Dr. J. A. Lindsay. Professor Meissner, G. H. Elliott, G. Smith.

The dinner was served in excellent style.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the health of the Queen, which was appropriately honoured.

Mr. LANE JOYNT then proposed the health of "The Lord Mayor and Corporation of Belfast." He thanked them for the splendid hospitality they had shown the Association during the week, representing, as they did so well, a city famous in the annals of Ireland, and still destined, he hoped, to represent that immortal principle which was contained in the name of their Association—the Library Association of the *United* Kingdom. He was nothing if not municipal. For twenty-five years he was a member of the Corporation of his native city, and had filled the office of alderman for a space of twenty years, and he had also been Mayor. He had a great faith in municipal institutions, and the progress of the country, and he had equally great faith in the power and vigour of the

middle classes of the empire of which we form a part, and he was sure if any calamity should ever occur to their country they would exhibit the same qualities their ancestors had always shown in standing up for loyalty and love of liberty. He asked them to drink heartily the health of the Corporation and its esteemed Lord Mayor.

The toast was cordially received.

The LORD MAYOR, in acknowledging the toast, said that the occasion which brought them together was a happy one. It was as it were a halting place on the march of intellectual progress, where a portion of the army of thinkers and workers stop for rest and refreshment, mental and physical. That their first army corps had been conducted hither by its distinguished commander, Lord Dufferin, had been to the people of Belfast a source of great gratification, but they did not wish to pay the less attention to the subalterns and the rank and file, who bear the burden and heat of the day, and they welcomed heartily those of them whose duties did not bring them into "the fierce light which beats" upon responsible nobility. Each of them had in his respective sphere a duty to perform, and in their case he doubted not it had been, and was being well and faithfully done. Some men were born to be leaders of men; others were gifted with the faculty of veneration, and could adore their leaders, and the combined result was success. They greatly admired their distinguished president—the noble Marquess who visits them while on duty as it were, having only temporarily stepped from the arena of politics in order that he might breathe the air of his native land, and rejuvenate himself by a brief holiday at what they rejoiced to hear him call "home." They were ungrateful enough to waylay him, and thrust him into harness—of an irresponsible kind, it was true; but still not such as one willingly buckled on when on pleasure bent. His Lordship, however, with that kindness of heart for which he was noted, was always ready to lend a hand to advance any interest of a desirable kind, and his being there showed that he reciprocated the friendship that they, Irishmen and friends, had for their illustrious countryman. He left the great ship of state in competent hands, and temporarily took charge of that little launch, which he would guide with the same unerring and masterlike ability which his Excellency applied to the smallest undertaking, as to that of the greatest magnitude entrusted to his care. Their worthy president had more than qualified for the position he now occupies, in that he had proved himself to be an accomplished writer of books. His latest labour of love would be read by thousands of his devoted friends and admirers in all parts of the world. Seldom, if ever, had any man had such a distinguished diplomatic career as the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava. His record from the day he left Eton until the present was a long and brilliant one. Lord Dufferin's successes as a statesman had been made more brilliant than they would otherwise have been by the grace and charm of his private and social life, and in this connection they would not overlook the fact that Lady Dufferin had shed a lustre on all the important offices held by his Excellency. Her counsel and well-known tact and grace had, they had no doubt, on many occasions brought about political and social triumphs, while in many latitudes Lady Dufferin had proved herself a worthy partner in Lord Dufferin's administrations. The noble work done by her Ladyship in India for the improvement of the social position of the native women would alone entitle her to the heartfelt gratitude of the civilised world. For their kind allusion to the prosperity and prosperous appearance of Belfast they would allow him to thank them. The various public bodies worked together harmoniously for the good of the city, and the citizens were peaceful and industrious; and, as they no doubt had found, when these factors existed, the result was always favourable. He sincerely hoped that their excursion the following day would be pleasant, and that favoured with fine weather they might be induced to linger longer in the Emerald Isle.

Councillor SOUTHERN (Manchester) proposed the toast of "The Local Committee," coupled with the name of Mr. Henderson. He had only arrived in Belfast that morning, and he had not an opportunity of experiencing how well the local committee had catered for their enjoyment and edification. Although, however, he had not the experience of the bulk of his auditors, he had abundant documentary evidence in the programme of the labours—the admirable and successful labours—of the local committee. He had been at a number of the conferences of the Library Association, and wherever they wandered in their peripatetic career they found the hospitality increasing—the overflowing welcome of one place exceeded by the next. They had had some experience of that in Belfast, and he was inclined to say that in none of the cases which dwelt so pleasantly in their memories had there been receptions so admirably contrived and so ingeniously devised for their satisfaction as those which had been provided by the local committee of Belfast. He had seen that city for the first time that morning, and from what he saw of it he could appreciate what he had been told that there was no place in the kingdom had more intelligence, "go," and vigour than that which characterised that city. His impression of it had been an exceedingly favourable one, and he had been struck with the splendid appearance of its streets, which gave every evidence of fine municipal management. He had also visited the public library, and he could say that it was a building that would do credit to any city. The lines of the Association had, indeed, fallen in pleasant places when they had visited Belfast, and when they proposed the health of the local committee they looked behind them to the manufacturers and people of Belfast, and the success which had characterised the arrangements showed that there was a willingness on the part of the community to help the committee in every way.

The toast having been enthusiastically honoured, Mr. HENDERSON, who was cordially received, in responding, thanked the company on behalf of the committee of which he had the honour of being chairman, and he could assure them that they most cordially appreciated the manner in which the toast had been received. As regarded the reception they had given the members of the Association, they had only acted in a manner characteristic of Belfast, and they were always happy to welcome friends amongst them, and especially those friends who came from the other side of the water. He might be permitted to say, as chairman of the Library Committee of the Belfast Corporation, that from the very moment the visit of the Association was mentioned by Mr. Elliott, their excellent librarian, he had never heard a single word of dissent expressed by any member of the Corporation to the invitation to the Association, and each one vied with the other in their efforts to make the visit a success. Nothing had pleased the Committee more than that they had enjoyed themselves, and if they had succeeded in making the visit a pleasant and agreeable one they had been amply repaid for any trouble they might have taken. They appreciated very much the remarks which had been made about their free public library, though it was not yet all that they would desire. They were only able to levy a penny rate, which did not yield a very large sum ; but, notwithstanding that, they were endeavouring to fill it with those magnificent sources of knowledge referred to by their excellent president, and he hoped the next occasion the Association visited Belfast that they would have books to show worth looking at, and a library twice the size of that which the city possessed at present. He again begged to assure them that they were delighted to have the Association amongst them, and if they had thoroughly enjoyed themselves the local committee considered themselves amply repaid for any trouble they might have had.

Mr. LAWTHER, in felicitous terms, proposed the toast of the "Library Association," coupled with the name of Dr. Garnett.

Mr. JOHN WARD added a few words, expressing the feeling of the citizens generally that Belfast felt they were greatly honoured in the presence of the Library Association amongst them. It was the first time they had been in Belfast, and he wished them "many happy returns" of the visit. Their Chairman (Dr. Garnett) represented in himself the true essence of a thorough librarian, and was a man who not only knew the names of his authors and his works, but who knew what was inside his books. It was a great honour to them to have Dr. Garnett amongst them, and he hoped the visit of the Association would have the effect of promoting literary feeling amongst the members of that community to a greater extent than existed at present.

The toast was heartily responded to.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledgment, said that it was a matter of considerable pride to them to see the way in which their work was appreciated in Belfast, and not only there, but in the other cities and towns of the kingdom. During their visit to Belfast they had been much surprised with that intelligent, thriving and prosperous community, which showed its appreciation of literature by the erection of that fine library many of them had the pleasure of visiting. As other evidence of this character he referred to the generous encouragement of learning by the late Mr. Campbell, who had left the munificent sum of £200,000 to erect and endow the college which bore his name. If the visit of the Association stimulated them to take a greater interest in the work of the Association it would not have been without result. In conclusion, he said that they did not want to be removed any further from the people of Belfast than they were at present, and if any legislation should be brought forward, the effect of which would be to dissociate the people of Belfast from the rest of the United Kingdom, such legislation would entirely fail to commend itself to him.

Mr. GEORGE LAMB CAMPBELL, J.P. (Wigan), proposed the health of the honorary secretary, Mr. MacAlister, and spoke warmly of his great services on behalf of the Association.

The toast was enthusiastically drunk, and

Mr. MACALISTER briefly responded.

The only other toast was the health of the Chairman, proposed by Mr. W. WEIR.

During the evening songs were contributed by Mr. W. H. K. Wright, Mr. James Henderson, and Mr. C. Welch. Mr. Wright's stirring singing of a patriotic song was much enjoyed, while Mr. Henderson was loudly applauded for his sympathetic rendering of the ever-welcome "Kil-larney."

EXCURSION TO THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY.

The members devoted Friday to an enjoyable excursion to Portrush and the Giant's Causeway, which proved a pleasant termination to their visit to the North of Ireland. The arrangements for the trip had been made by the local committee, to whom much praise is due for their exertions on behalf of the visiting members. A special train conveying the excursionists, to the number of 175, left the York Road terminus of the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway at 9.15 a.m., and Portrush was reached in two hours. The party at once joined the electric tram-car for the Causeway, but the number was so large that the train had to be divided into two, one portion being conveyed by the electro motor, and the other by a steam engine. The former went direct to the Causeway,

whilst the party in the second train stopped at Dunluce to visit the old castle, the church, and the graveyard. At the castle Mr. R. M. Young, M.R.I.A., acted the part of *cicerone*. He detailed how the keep portion was built about 1645, when the then Marquis of Antrim (of the MacDonnell family) enlarged the castle to meet the wants of increased retainers. The older portion—with the barbican, towers, drawbridge—was erected by the M'Quillan family prior to 1550, and the recital of the interesting history of the castle was closely attended to by the assembled visitors. Shortly after one o'clock the second portion of the party reached the Causeway, where luncheon was partaken of in the Causeway Hotel, the needs of the first portion of the visitors in this respect having been previously attended to. Boating parties to the caves and the Causeway itself were then arranged, and all the beauties of this romantic and peerless spot were seen and enjoyed by the party. At four o'clock a start was made from the Causeway on the return journey, and at 5.15 the entire party were back in Portrush, where tea was provided in the café at the railway station. At the close of the tea, Mr. COWELL moved, and Mr. WRIGHT seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Gray, Mr. Traill, C.E. (chief engineer of the tramway company), and Mr. M'Fall for the excellence of the arrangements for the excursion. In acknowledging the vote of thanks,

Mr. WILLIAM GRAY, M.R.I.A., said that in doing as they had done they had simply displayed one of the characteristics of Irishmen towards strangers, and especially towards British benighted strangers. They in Ulster did not desire that Englishmen should be strangers to them. They looked upon the Library Association as the custodians of the literature and wisdom of the past, as the custodians of the thought of the present, and the prolific source of the influence of the future; and they trusted that no matter what changes might take place in social life, or whatever variations there might be in political opinion, the Association he addressed would never be obliged to change its title, but always be proud to acknowledge themselves the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

Mr. TRAILL also returned thanks, and the proceedings terminated.

At 6.5 the special train started on the return journey from Portrush, and Belfast was reached at eight o'clock.

EXHIBITION OF LIBRARY APPLIANCES.

A large and successful exhibition of appliances was one of the most interesting features of the meeting. It was organised and arranged by Mr. James D. Brown, of Clerkenwell Public Library, and Mr. J. Henry Quinn, of Chelsea Public Library, and consisted for the greater part of a selection of apparatus from the Museum of the Association. The exhibition was restricted mainly to library plans, cataloguing methods, filing and indexing methods, book-cases and shelf fittings, book-holders, charging methods and book-binding. Although the bulk of the exhibits came from the Association Museum at Clerkenwell, a considerable display of interesting apparatus was contributed by various libraries and private exhibitors. There were nearly 200 sheets of library plans and views, representing some of the best and newest British, Colonial and American public libraries. With one or two exceptions, the whole of this exhibit belonged to the Association. In the department of cataloguing methods there was gathered the best and most varied assortment of British and Foreign devices ever shown at any meeting of the Association. Nearly every kind of card, sheaf, slip and page catalogue was shown in various forms, and excited a great amount of interest because of the novelty of

very many of the specimens. There were examples of card catalogues from Messrs. Stone & Sons, of Banbury; the Shannon File Co.; Portsmouth Public Library; Messrs. Marlborough, Gould & Co., London; Library Bureau, London; Mr. T. B. Vernon, London; State Library, New York; Signor Staderini, Rome; Giessen University, and various British and American libraries. These were in the form of cabinets, trays, and loose cards, and many ingenious variations were displayed. The sheaf and slip catalogues were probably the most novel. Among them were the neat and compact albums or sheafs, in book form, invented by Signora Sacconi, of Florence; Signor Staderini, of Rome; Mr. J. D. Brown, of Clerkenwell (shown by Mr. H. Evans, London, the maker); University Library of Leyden; Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; Prof. Carl Dziatzko, Göttingen; Mr. C. Vernon Kirkby, of Leicester; Prof. Magnússon, of Cambridge, and others. Other novelties shown in this department were stereotyped lines or "slugs," designed to enable printed catalogues to be kept always up to date, without the cost of reprinting matter once set. These "slugs" were contributed by the Linotype Co., of London, and were accompanied by a printed circular descriptive of the method. The filing and indexing exhibit included a very fine display of all kinds of cabinets, trays and boxes for storing and filing documents, &c., sent by Messrs. Stone & Sons, of Banbury, and the Shannon File Co., of London. Other contributors to this section were Messrs. W. A. Fincham & Co., of London; Messrs. Marlborough, Gould & Co., of London; and the Library Association Museum; all of whom sent specimens of pamphlet cases and other useful boxes. There were also a few American contrivances for filing and binding, or holding magazines or newspapers. A novelty in this section was the newspaper holder invented by Mr. Shuttleworth, of the Deritend Free Library, Birmingham, of which a model was shown. Among the book-cases and shelf fittings were examples of iron standards, sent by Dr. Wenker, of Marburg University Library; Stikeman adjustable shelving, New York; Snead Iron Co., of Louisville, U.S.A., who showed drawings of the new Green book-shelving adopted for the Congressional Library at Washington; Mr. Mayhew, of the British Museum, and others. The shelf fittings included press and shelf labels of metal, &c., shown by Mr. H. T. Cox, of the London Library; Messrs. Phillips, London; Mr. A. Cotgreave (step); Clerkenwell Public Library; Mr. F. Campbell, British Museum; Library Association Museum; Messrs. Marlborough, Gould & Co., London (also museum labels), and various American libraries. Book-holders and carriers were chiefly represented by the adjustable slides and carriers of Mr. A. W. Lambert, of London; and Messrs. John Walker, of London; together with various specimens belonging to the Museum of the Association. Charging and registration methods were represented by a very large display of forms of every kind, mounted on large sheets and cards for the Association by the Library Bureau of London, and Mr. J. D. Brown, of Clerkenwell. These were intended to illustrate the collections of library forms in the Museum of the Association, and to show the enormous number and variety of the forms in use for this purpose alone. A new form of indicator, with a separate charging system on cards, was shown by the Library Bureau of London, and the new card charging and check system employed at Clerkenwell Public Library was also on view. A charging box used in connection with the State of New York travelling libraries was also on exhibition. Book-binding was shown by the Public Libraries of Bradford, Nottingham and Portsmouth; Mr. H. Evans, London; Mr. C. Chivers, Bath; and Mr. G. H. Elliott, of the Public Library, Belfast, showed a series of views, and specimens illustrating the preparation of leather. The Museum also sent samples of leathers and periodical covers. A large assortment of book covers, chiefly

paper, used in American libraries, was also sent from the Museum. Among miscellaneous exhibits may be mentioned a very ingenious method of displaying medals on both sides without opening the case in which they are contained, invented by Mr. H. T. Folkard, of Wigan; forms, &c., of various kinds, sent by Messrs. F. Campbell, British Museum; Radford & Briscoe, of Nottingham; and Martin, of Hammersmith.

LIST OF MEMBERS PRESENT.

Anderton, Basil, Public Library, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Aldred, Thomas, Free Public Library, Barrow-in-Furness; Anderson, J. M., Librarian, University, St. Andrews; Anderson, John, J.P., Holywood, Co. Down; Browne, J. M., M.D., Dundalk; Brown, R. G., Ayr; Bull, H. W., Christchurch Public Library, Southwark, S.E.; Borrajo, E. M., Guildhall Library, London; Brassington, W. S., Moseley, Birmingham; Brittain, W. H. (Alderman), Storth Oaks, Ranmoor, Sheffield; Brown, J. D., Clerkenwell Public Library; Buckland, J. D., Stockport Free Public Library; Burgoyne, F. J., Tate Central Library, London; Butcher, Albert, Belle Grove, Welling, Kent; Bond, Henry, Public Library, Kendal; Ballinger, John, Free Library, Cardiff; Ballinger, Mrs.; Brown, Joseph, J.P., Wigan; Brown, Mrs.; Birch, Alfred J., G.W.R. Mechanics' Institution, New Swindon; Briscoe, J. Potter, Free Public Libraries, University College, Nottingham; Briscoe, Mrs.; Bowes, Robert, Cambridge; Bagguley, W. H., Public Libraries, West Ham; Carter, William, Free Library, Great Yarmouth; Chapman, R. C., Central Library, Croydon; Cowell, Peter, Free Public Library, Liverpool; Cowell, Mrs. and Miss, Free Public Library, Liverpool; Crone, Dr. J. S., Kensal Lodge, Kensal Green, London, N.W.; Crowther, W., Public Library, Derby; Crowther, Mrs.; Campbell, George Lamb, J.P., Wigan Library; Campbell, Frank, British Museum, London, W.C.; Clinch, George, British Museum, London, W.C.; Carter, B., Gosport and Alverstoke Public Library, Gosport; Comerford, M., Free Public Library, Dundalk; Clapham Public Library Delegate, c/o J. R. Welch, Clapham; Cotgreave, Alfred, Public Libraries, West Ham; Debenham, Frank, St. Marylebone Free Public Libraries; Durie, William, Stanley Lodge, Grange Road, Ramsgate, Kent; Dyson (Councillor), Bank House, Nelson; Day, Charles, 96, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.; Douthwaite, W. Ralph, Library, Gray's Inn, London, W.C.; Dixon, Henry, 5, Tabra Terrace, Phibsborough, Dublin; Day, E. C. F. and Miss Day, 96, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.; Donaldson, S. F., Library Buildings, Inverness; Dent, Robert K., Public Library, Aston Manor; Doubleday, W. E., St. Marylebone Free Public Libraries, 94, Lisson Grove, London, N.W.; Dufferin and Ava, The Marquess of (President); Elliott, G. Hall, Free Public Library, Belfast; Edmond, J. P., Haigh Hall, Wigan; Elliott, John, Derwent House, Upper Villiers Street, Wolverhampton; Forrest, W., 8, Bellevue Crescent, Ayr; Fincham, H. W., 172, St. John Street, E.C., London; Finney, James, Acresfield, Bolton; Formby, Thomas, 5, Belmont View, Liverpool, E.; Forsyth, Miss K. A., Edinburgh Public Library; Fovargue, H., Town Hall, Eastbourne; Fazakerley, John, 40, Paradise Street, Liverpool; Frazer, W. T., Public Library, Sunderland; Folkard, H. T., Wigan Free Library; Furnish, Arthur, York Public Library; Garnett, Richard (Dr.), London; Garnett, Mrs., London; Gilbert, Joseph, 96, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, N.; Gilbert, Mrs., 96, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, N.; Goodyear, C., Lancashire College, Whalley Range, Manchester; Greenwood, Alderman, (J.P.), Nelson; Guppy, Henry, Sion College, Blackfriars, London, S.E.; Goldsbrough, J. Berwick,

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